

PREVIEWS: 1:35 FIREFLY ■ 1:35 M2A1 ■ 1:35 M4A3E8 (105MM)

March 2007 / £3.50 / Issue 11

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PLOUGH

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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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KING OF THE HERD

Full size reference - 82nd Airborne Artillery

...AND LOVING IT!

Painting P&J's 150mm German grenadier



SILENCED IN THE SALIENT

Lee Lloyd details Dr Porsche's white Elefant



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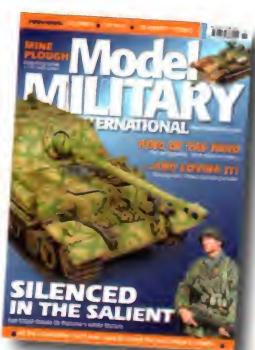
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Diary Dates...

February 4th

Modelkraft 2007, Milton Keynes. www.mksmc.co.uk/modelkraft_gen.htm

February 24/25th

Trucks 'N' Tracks, Folkestone www.trucksntracks.com

March 25th

The Potteries Model Show, Stoke on Trent. The doors will open at 10am. There will be club displays, traders, refreshments and a competition. The show will be held in its usual venue, the Meir Community and Education Centre, Pickford Place, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent. Contact: Alan Ewart 01782 388892 ewaa1253@aol.com or Mick Copestake 01782 392353

April 21st

British Model Soldier Society Show, Royal National Hotel, London. www.btinternet.com/~model.soldiers/page4.html

April 21/22nd

AMPS, Havre de Grace, Maryland, USA. www.amps-armor.org/amps

April 28/29th

Scottish Nationals, Perth. www.scotsnats.org.uk

May 26/27th

Concours International de Maquettes, Musee des Blindes, Saumur, France. www.musee-des-blindes.asso.fr

June 17th

MAFVA Nationals, IWM Duxford, in conjunction with the Military Vehicle Show. www.mafva.org.uk

July 18-22nd

War & Peace Show, Beltring, Kent. [www.warandpeaceshow.uk.com](http://thewarandpeaceshow.uk.com)

August 18th

Present Arms, Romford, Essex. www.mafvaessex.co.uk

September 23/24th

Euromilitaire, Folkestone

November 10/11th

Scale Modelworld, Telford, Shropshire. www.ipms-uk.co.uk/events



THE TANK WORKSHOP'S LATEST RELEASES...

Tank Workshop have been busy lately producing some excellent new conversions and detail sets including these three. All are beautifully cast and have been expertly mastered.

TWS 0006 M4A3 Improved Rear Hull

TWS 0006 M4A3 Improved Rear Hull

This is an improved replacement rear hull for Dragon's M4A3 series of Sherman kits.

STZ 031 T-54B

This conversion will build a standard production T-54B Model 1952 into its original configuration.

For more information on these products and the rest of their range check out www.tankworkshop.com



MISSING DIORAMA?

We must apologize for the change in the content of this issue. Due to technical difficulties, we are unable to feature Mike Tooth's 1:48 Leningrad diorama in this issue of Model Military International. We will endeavour to include Mike's excellent diorama as soon as possible. Apologies for inconvenience caused.



HERE COME THE YANKS

1:35 US Armored Infantry

(4 Figures Set) Gen 2 6366

Dragon's latest Gen 2 figure set of WWII US Infantrymen is the perfect complement for their new M2 Halftrack. The infantry figures portray a dismounted MG team as they carefully advance. They are wearing OD (M1941) field jackets and field trousers and come with standard equipment such as cartridge belts/pouches, canteens and first aid pouches. All equipment and weapons have been produced to Dragon's excellent Gen 2 standards. Another feature of this set is that by using the alternative arms, three of these figures can be re-posed to produce quite different characters. Hopefully by the time we go to print they should be available from all good model shops.

ISAF ARMOUR

Following on from our news item back in Issue 9, of the first Canadian Leopard C2 tanks being off-loaded at Kandahar airbase in southern Afghanistan. We have now received, thanks to MAFVA's Paul Middleton, a couple more photos of these vehicles now being used on operations and they certainly don't look as clean as the one being off loaded from the USAF C-17 Globemaster III. I'm sure you'd be pretty stupid to want to pick a fight with one of these very mean looking beasts when it comes patrolling in your neck of the woods!





JABO-SCHREK

We take a look at Dragon's latest and unusual flak gun based on the cannon fitted to many German aircraft of the period.

Darren Thompson

The German Army's need for a more effective, light, mobile Flak weapon saw the readily available 3cm Mk 103 aircraft cannon, mounted in an adapted Flak 38 carriage and trailer. This is effectively what Dragon has done with this new kit, utilizing parts from their recent Flak 38 kits, combined with a newly tooled 3cm 'Jaboschreck' cannon.

The kit includes both the gun platform and trailer sprues from Dragon's 2cm Flak 38, plus the etched gun shield and spent ammo basket. A new sprue is supplied for the cannon, plus two new etched frets.

The main gun itself is made up from some very finely moulded plastic parts. A five-part main body is mated to a two-piece barrel and stabilizer assembly and finished off with an etched brass muzzle brake housing and shell feed chute. Several other parts give a choice, between etched or plastic parts, for a very accurate and unusual looking gun assembly.

The new sprue also includes a very delicate, seven-part gun sighting mechanism and a new left-hand side, for the pressed steel gun mount. A large hopper, for the 3cm ammo is provided, as are several individual rounds.

As with the previous Flak 38

kit, the gun shields are supplied in both plastic and etch, with both having their advantages. The angle of elevation is also handled in the same manner as before, using pre-set linkage rods, allowing the builder to set his gun at either 0, 20, 40 or 60 degrees of elevation.

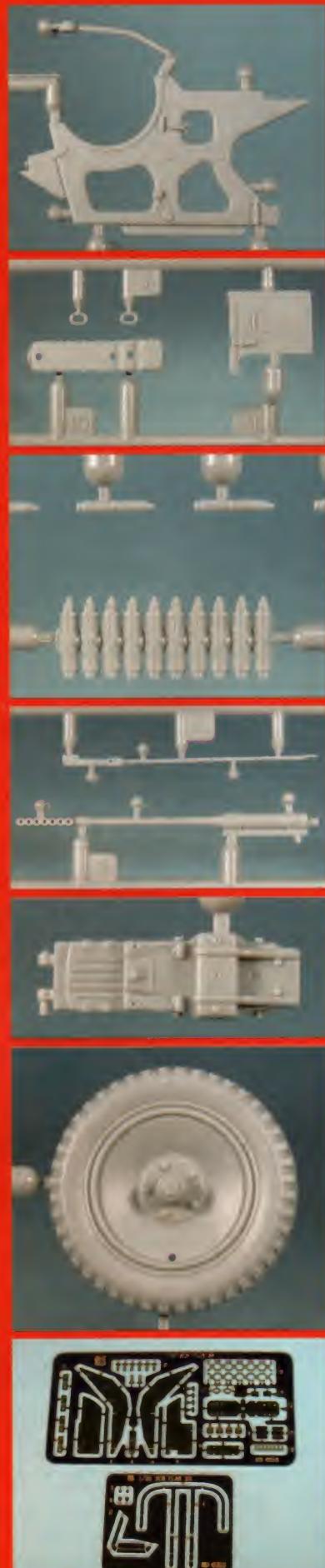
The trailer is also very nicely detailed, alternate parts allowing you to fold, or extend the front support leg, depending on whether you intend to hitch it to a vehicle or not. The instructions show you to remove the mudguards from the trailer, which is correct for this gun, but then, rather confusingly, show further

details being added to them, so something to watch out for there!

A small decal sheet is included, providing a good selection of kill markings, although none are referred to in the painting guide.

This kit is certainly a very attractive alternative to the more usual Flak guns already available, so top marks to Dragon for that. The only thing lacking now is a wider variety of vehicles to tow the gun, hopefully Dragon has some ideas about that for the future!

Highly Recommended. ■





...AND LOVING IT!

Matt Wellhouser brings P & J's
German infantryman to life,
but he doesn't look happy!

Once in a while, you find that "perfect figure". It has a natural pose, and is sculpted to perfection. Several years ago, I was attending a model show, and the sculptor displayed this figure which won 'best of show'. Subsequently it has been cast in grey resin. All of the parts have exquisite detail. And many of them are cast separately. The texture, and attention to fit is perfect. The soldier is wearing a reversible smock over his standard issue tunic and the camouflage pattern is called "Oak Leaf A". There were several other patterns, some very similar in colour, these smocks which were issued to Waffen SS units. The Heer and Luftwaffe had separate distinct patterns. In general, the German armed forces were the first army to use camouflage clothing in combat. Because of the variety, figures wearing this type of clothing give the modeller a very wide choice of colours, patterns and time periods to model. The painting techniques described in this article can certainly be applied to any Waffen SS figure, and to some degree, Luftwaffe and Heer camouflage.

All of the kit parts require minimum clean-up which makes the building process very enjoyable! The torso, with the arms attached is cast separately and once glued to the legs, the majority of the main components

are assembled. I have mounted all of the accessories on brass rods for ease of painting and handling ensuring that holes are drilled in places hidden when the figure is assembled, all these parts were then primed with Tamiya Fine Surface grey spray primer.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SHADOWS

The main figure parts are painted with Tamiya Flat Black acrylic. This helps me define the shadows. The "spring" side of the smock is a light tannish brown colour, for the base coat which I sprayed with Tamiya Earth Brown. Most of my spraying was done from above to accentuate the shadows with the black primer filling in the deep creases and folds. Once this was dry, I began painting the camouflage. My colour mixes are all approximations and these colours vary greatly depending upon the lighting, wear and tear and fading of the fabric.

The pattern was applied painting the bright green first, the second darker green was then laid in usually ringing the first colour. A small portion of the smock shows the reverse-autumn side where I used orange browns, highlighted with yellow. When painting SS camouflage, it is important to study a reference picture and try to understand the colour layout. I usually have a reference book to hand so I can immediately glance at it, and try to follow the pattern.



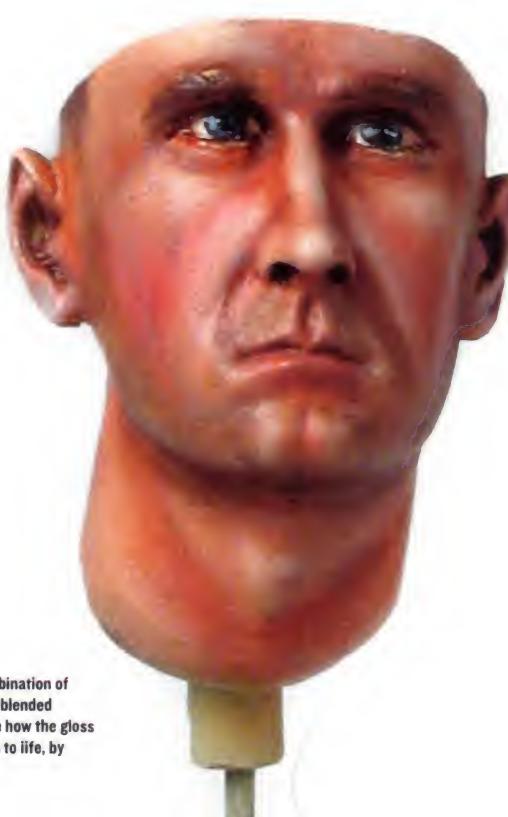
The level of detail incorporated into the P&J figure can be really appreciated in these photos of the hands, which have been expertly painted by the author.

I do not try to copy the pattern exactly - you would go nuts! Once the second colour is finished, I start with the darkest colour, almost a black brown.

When all colours are in place, I examine the figure for any missed areas, and make corrections. The two predominant colours are the light green, and the base colour. To add shadows, I mix a darker colour of each, then go over the figure and apply them. Usually, the base colour already has shadows in place from the black undercoat and I just add shadows where the black did not show through and then, I do the same with the light green. Adding Winsor and Newton blending medium to the acrylics helps prolong the drying time and allows blending of these shadow colours. I do not use the paint

full strength for the shadows or highlights, you need to use it very diluted and also, "unload" the brush on a scrap piece of paper before applying the paintbrush to the model, as too much paint on the brush can spell disaster.

Once the shadows are finished, then it is time to add highlights. To the light green, I added a lighter shade of green to produce a highlight value (green grey). I added a buff to the base brown to create the highlight for that colour. Try to avoid using white to create the highlights, as it washes out the colour. You may have to continue to add highlight/shadows/midtones until the colours look right and remember it is easier to add, than to take away. Again, the highlights and each successive layer are increasingly diluted with water. ▶



The head has been completed using a combination of acrylic base colours and various oil paints blended together for the realistic flesh tones. Note how the gloss coat over the eyes has really brought them to life, by adding natural reflections.



Here we can see that the figure's left hand leg is still to receive the distinctive spotty finish to the camouflage. Replicating this Waffen SS Pea Pattern uniform is very time consuming, but when done as well as this looks very lifelike.

◀ SPOTTY TROUSERS

The trousers were painted in the Waffen SS Pea Pattern camouflage which was introduced late in the war. They can also be painted in field grey as the cut of the trousers is the same. The base colour (Deep Portrait Pink) was applied and I then added large irregular blotches of khaki, camo brown, and black brown. Finally, small dots are added over the previously painted areas. It looks like pea-sized dots of paint- hence the name "pea pattern".

Once I was satisfied with the camouflage pattern, I started on the details. Field grey was used for the tunic under the smock. The undershirt was painted an olive brown colour. The figure has

canvas web equipment suspenders which were painted a darker shade of yellow brown with progressively lighter shades added as a highlight. To add definition, a light wash of artists oil colour was used in the shadows and edges. The leather belt, rifle sling, and boots were painted Vallejo black, with a little Vallejo orange brown added to give it a worn look. The edges were painted with the same colours, but with more orange brown added.

DETAIL PAINTING

The remainder of the equipment was painted with various colours matching my references. Chipping on metal parts was done with a silver Prismacolour pencil and silver printer's ink. Printers ink is

"Try to avoid using white to create the highlights, as it washes out the colour"

The figure is nearing completion, all the highlights and shadows are now in place and all the equipment has been suitably weathered. Note the reverse side of the smock showing the Autumn colours near the collar.



supplied in paste form and using the clear carrier from a bottle of metallic enamel, you can create silver paint that has very fine grain.

All flesh areas were painted with artist's oil paints over a base of Tamiya Flesh.

The wood grain on the rifle, grenades, and shovel handle was painted using a white base, with artist oil paints on top. The transparency of the oil colour allows a streaky wood grain. I use an old short bristle brush to help accentuate the grain. By varying the oil colours used, different shades of wood can be created. Once dry, I overcoat with a light spray of Dullcote and use a light tan acrylic to simulate chips and wear on the wood. I used

Humbrol Metalcote gunmetal for the metal areas of the rifle. To help accentuate the worn metal, I randomly rub powdered pencil graphite on the edges of weapons and equipment. Once all of the parts were painted, I assembled the figure using CA glue, and in some cases, epoxy. I secured the figure to the base with epoxy glue. I weathered the lower portion of the figure with MMP Weathering powders applying various earth tones diluted with Tamiya thinner.

This is a very high quality figure. It is very rewarding to paint, and because of the quality casting, assembly is easier than smaller figures. This one that will surely turn heads and will be a great addition to your display. ►

Note how the canvas webbing equipment suspenders have been painted in yellow brown with progressively lighter shades added for the highlights. Note how the individual weave of the canvas has been picked out.



Powdered pencil graphite has been rubbed along the edges of all metallic equipment, for a very realistic finish.



The author painted all of the leather webbing straps with Vallejo Black mixed with a little Orange Brown, and for the worn edges more orange brown was added to perfectly replicate this effect. Note the dusty and grubby elbow area on the Grenadier's smock.



◀ WHERE THE TITLE CAME FROM...

In the 1960s there was a television show called "Get Smart". It was a parody of James Bond and other secret agent shows with Maxwell Smart as a spy. His boss would describe the mission he had to complete which, of course, was full of danger and all sorts of torture if he was caught. After the "Chief" described the mission, and said "you realize you'll be facing every kind of danger imaginable", and Max would reply "...and loving it".

The expression on the face of the figure has a real "happy" look, like he was just told to report to the Russian front. I thought the title fit well. ■



Each item of equipment has been treated as an individual model in its own right. The wood grain effect was achieved by first base coating the parts in white, followed by brush painting various coloured oil paints over the top, and then streaking these colours with an old short bristled brush, replicating the grain exactly.

The figure will be fixed to the base using epoxy adhesive, then visually tied to the groundwork with MMP weathering powders.

Colour Chart:

Vallejo Acrylic paint unless noted differently

Smock: Base - Tamiya Earth Brown
833 Camouflage Bright Green
822 Camouflage Black Brown
979 Camouflage Dark Green
894 Russian Green

Trousers: Base - Liquitex Deep Portrait Pink
988 Khaki
825 Camouflage Violet Brown
822 Camouflage Black brown
833 Camouflage Bright Green

Misc: Silver Printers Ink
Humbrol Metalcote-Gun metal
Tamiya Flesh
Tamiya Surface Primer
Testors Dullcote
CA Cement
Two Part Epoxy Glue

Weathering was done with MMP dry pigment powders, MIG pigments would work equally as well.

References:

Camouflage Uniforms of the Waffen SS
Beaver, Borsarello, Schiffer Publishing
Waffen SS Uniforms in Colour Photographs
Steven, Amodio, Europa Militaria





MINE PLOUGH

Andy King, inspired by an article in our sister magazine, builds a mean looking T55.

The T-54/55 series began life in the mid-late 1940's stemming from the T-44 that in itself was the proposed successor to the T-34/85. T-55 production started in 1958 and continued well into the 1980's. This tank is probably one of the most-produced armoured vehicles ever with figures almost reaching the 100,000 mark. It primarily served in the armoured units of the former Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact but as was always the case during this era the vehicle was widely exported to many other Communist friendly nations around

the globe from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, appearing in most of the armed conflicts taking place in these regions notably the Arab-Israeli wars of 1967 and 1973 and the 1991 Gulf War.

The T-55 (along with the T-62) was the mainstay of Soviet armoured forces for many years, until replaced in the frontline with the T-72 and T-80. However, it still remains in service albeit in a reserve capacity.

The T-55 has been the subject of many modifications and improvements over its service life so a bewildering array of versions

are available to the modeller. Also the hull was used for armoured recovery and bridge laying vehicles and many more variants giving even more scope.

THE MODEL

After being inspired by the magnificent model of a Syrian T-55 by Marcus Nicholls in a earlier Tamiya Model Magazine I made a mental note to get the kit ASAP. However a couple of years passed before I eventually got one (usual story of the mind wandering onto other projects, family life ,blah, blah, blah...) and

it was only because I was scouring Ebay one evening and came across the kit for sale along with a set of Friulmodel tracks. I won the auction for the grand total of £16.70 (including shipping!!!), An absolute bargain to say the least (bargain being my favourite word when describing the latest model purchases to the Wife). The model was delivered soon after and for a change I got started on it almost immediately with the intention of building it straight out of the box (Yeah right....).

The kit comes with options for five vehicles, two Soviet Army, two



Polish and one Czechoslovakian Army. Rubber band type tracks are supplied and are very good, but I was going to use the Friul tracks that came as part of the auction. The kit is moulded with Tamiya's typical high quality and the only line of flash is around the road wheels. Although there are plenty of etch sets around for it, I just wanted to build as is. I had virtually no printed reference about the T-55 apart from the aforementioned Tamiya Mag article and the Hans Halberstadt book 'Inside The Great Tanks' so I turned to the internet and found some great pictures on Tanxheaven.com. Time to get on with it...

CONSTRUCTION

Construction begins with the road wheels and lower hull and like the rest of the stages is easy enough and straightforward. The only thing to watch is getting the axles aligned properly but as long as you use a straight edge there is no problem whatsoever (unless you want to model the vehicle over an uneven terrain of course). I inflicted some wear and tear on the tyres but I left them off the hull along with the tracks until after painting. The upper hull is virtually trouble free too, the only thing here was to fill the all the pin marks and holes under the fenders as they are quite noticeable. Also this is where you have to start selecting which of the 5 versions of the kit you require, (I went with option B).

The only real omission from the kit is the pipes for the fuel tanks so using the excellent

pictures from various T-55's on Tanxheaven and the Tamiya Mag article, I fabricated them from fuse wire. I also refined the fixing brackets for the tanks by using thin lead foil. The conduit for the headlights on the upper hull was made from fuse wire too and the auxiliary fuel tanks at the rear had the retaining straps replaced with thin plastic card just to improve their appearance. I glued the drivers hatch closed as I didn't want to get bogged down with scratch building an interior even though I had the pictures, but I did add the drivers periscopes. I replaced the string supplied for the tow cables with thin picture hanging wire as I feel it gives a better representation of steel cable.

A few weld seams were added around the tow hooks, hull attachment plates exhaust area etc. with a pyrogravure. I replaced the exhaust heat shield (Part D2) with a piece of lead foil burnished over the kit part as I felt the supplied item was a bit on the thick side. It took about 4 attempts before I was happy with it, however this then needed mounting brackets which I made from thin brass sheet (what did I say earlier about building straight from the box? I'm sorry but I just can't help it).

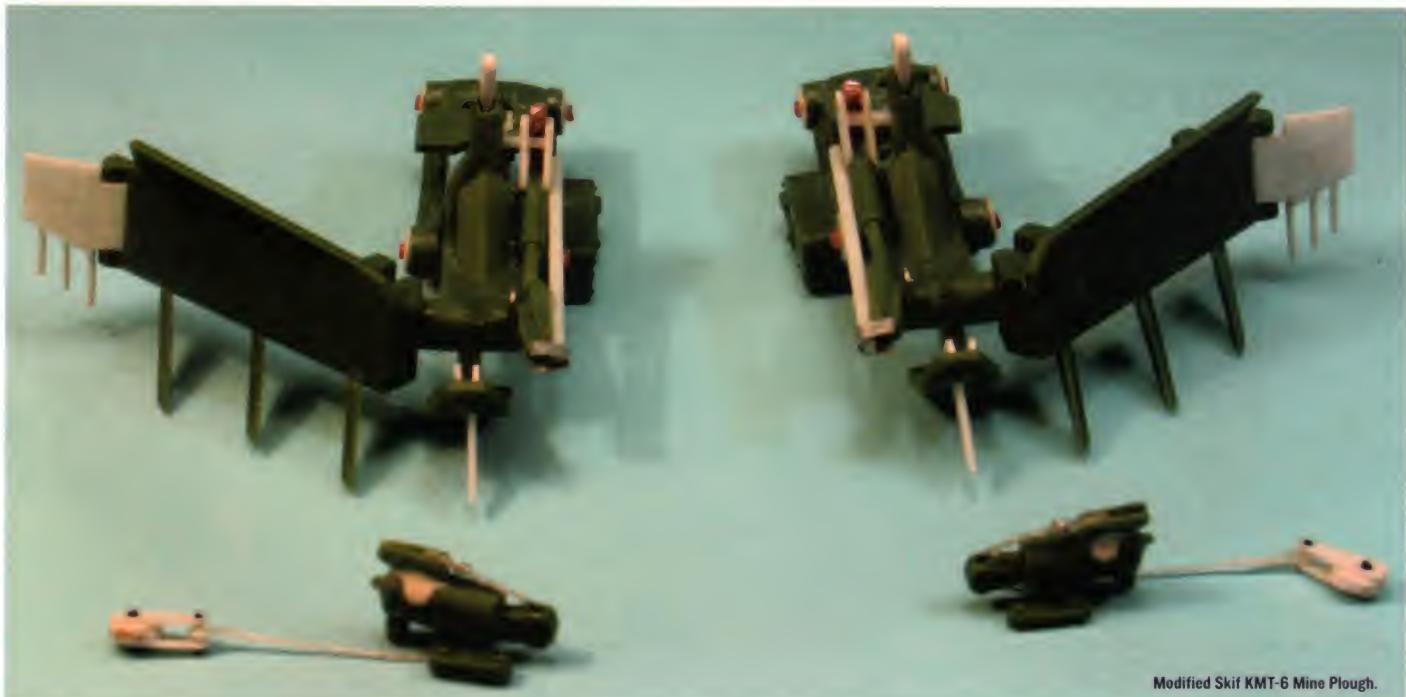
The turret is next and again you have to be careful which holes to open up for the different variants. The detail is good here but I replaced the kit handrails and tie-down cleats at the back of the turret with fuse wire using the kit parts as reference. I did have an

idea about putting a couple of crew figures in the turret and I modelled the hatches open, however the hatch interiors are devoid of any detail so after filling some prominent pin marks I scratchbuilt the periscopes from thick plastic sheet, latches from thin brass and grab handles from fuse wire. I used the kit gun barrel rather than an aluminium item as it was perfectly acceptable to me. Below and to the right of the snorkel tube I cut a small opening into the bottom edge of the turret as this was a detail pointed out by Marcus Nicholls in his article.

MINE PLOUGH

At this point though, the inevitable happened when adding this and that and poring over pictures for hours on end, I ran out of steam for the project and it stalled. It was a good few months later before I got the urge back to finish the kit and this was due to a good friend giving me the Skif KMT-6 Mine plough kit (Cheers Mal!). I could visualise what the model would look like with it fitted as mine plough's certainly give a vehicle a 'mean' look so the inspiration came flooding back. (It's funny what sets you off isn't it?).

The Skif model itself is basically sound but does need refining to represent the proper layout of the mine plough, so after finding some great pictures on Tanxheaven again of an East German T-55 with KMT-6 fitted I was off once more! The first thing to throw away were the parts that make the model plough moveable as they were nothing like the real thing. New rams were made from plastic rod ►



Modified Skif KMT-6 Mine Plough.



The hand rails, tie-down cleats and hatch handles were all made from fuse wire. The weld seams around lifting hooks were enhanced with the aid of a pyrogravure tool.



The missing fuel system feed lines were added from fuse wire and fuel tank restraining brackets were fabricated from lead foil. Picture frame hanging wire was used to replace kit supplied string tow cables.

along with other parts made from various thicknesses' of plastic sheet. The rams that go on top of the hull were refined and detailed with new scratchbuilt pulleys and nylon thread to represent the thin wire cable. The hull attachment points had the bolt detail removed where the mine plough was to fit, however I left off the plough until the painting was finished.

The track was assembled as per Friuls instructions. This was my first time working with white metal tracks but I thoroughly enjoyed it as clean up was minimal, although I did break a couple of fine drills doing it.

The model was then washed

in warm soapy water and left to dry for a couple of days prior to priming.

PAINTING

The model was sprayed all over in black acrylic auto primer including the tracks, however I may use something else in future as I've noticed lately that I'm getting a reaction with the plastic that has never happened before. Answers on a postcard please to...

The base coat was Tamiya XF-58 sprayed all over but allowing the black undercoat to show through as a pre-shade. A small amount of XF-3 Yellow was then added to the base coat and the

model was lightly sprayed between panels to create a highlight and also to break up the otherwise monotonous green colour. For the mine plough a lighter shade of the base coat was sprayed to add contrast between the two items of machinery that would have been manufactured separately.

When dry a couple of coats of X-22 Clear was sprayed over the entire model and left to dry for a day or so. Decals were confined to turret numbers and a white dot either side plus the numbers on the IR light covers. Johnsons Kleer was applied to the area's where the decals are placed to help bed them down and again the model is left to

dry after more Kleer was applied over the decals to seal them in.

The gun mantlet cover was painted with Vallejo Russian Uniform and the road wheel tyres painted Humbrol Matt 33 Black.

WEATHERING

A wash of Burnt Sienna and Burnt Umber oil paint was applied over the entire model then a heavier one was worked into corners, recesses etc. When dry after a couple of days Humbrol Matt Cote is sprayed over the model. A 2:1 mix of Tamiya XF-52 Earth/ XF-1 Black was sprayed around the running gear, tracks, lower hull and mine plough followed by a lighter

Construction complete.
The wheels and tracks were removed prior to painting.





Front upper hull showing the pneumatic pipes made from stretched styrene sprue. Note how realistic the rusty finish on the spare track links looks, all achieved with pastel chalks.



Tamiya Olive Green XF-58 was misted over a black base colour to get this subtle shading effect around all of the fixtures and fitting on the turret.



The exhaust shield was made from lead foil and then weathered with pastel chalks, starting with black then various shades of brown, finished with orange. The chalks were stippled on with a brush dampened with IPA.



The spare ammo boxes for the turret mounted 12.7mm machine gun were painted with Humbrol Matt 76 Uniform Green, which helps to break-up the uniform finish of this single colour Soviet tank.



Mig Productions European Dust was mixed with thinners into a 'mud' then stippled onto the mine plough teeth.



The subtle paint chips were added using Vallejo German Camo Black/ Brown and German Grey all applied with a good quality fine tipped brush. The tow cable was painted with the above Black/Brown and then rubbed over with graphite powder, a final dusting with European Earth pigment from Mig Productions completed the weathering.

◀ spray of Earth. Paint chips were done with Vallejo German Camo Black/Brown and German Grey then Mig Productions European Earth was applied around the tracks, running gear, lower hull and plough.

I was feeling rather pleased with the effect of my 'subtle' weathering when the Wife commented that it was 'nice' but didn't look filthy enough for a tank, so it was back to the bench and I applied more pigment, adding more to the lower hull but also to the upper hull and turret in certain places. The end result I feel is a lot better though and I'm glad I heeded the advice of the Boss!

The spare tracklinks and exhaust shield were painted in Vallejo Black then pastel chalk thinned with Tamiya Thinner was stippled on with an old brush, starting with black then various shades of brown before finishing off with orange to give a rusty effect. Tow ropes were base coated with Vallejo German Black Brown then ground graphite was rubbed in for a steely effect. The graphite was also rubbed onto the top of the tow hooks on the hull and mine plough blades.

The wheels, tracks and plough were finally fitted together with pneumatic pipes for the plough added to the upper hull, which were made from stretched sprue.

CONCLUSION

Straight from the box this kit builds into a good model of an important vehicle. No doubt with the etch sets, aluminium barrel etc, etc, available it can (and has) been turned into a great model. As far as I know it's accurate (no doubt someone knows different) but either way it's a great improvement on previous T-55 kits. I firmly believe that if it looks right it is right and it certainly looks good to me. Also it forms a good basis for all the different versions that are out there that could keep T-55 fans busy for decades. Personally I fancy the bridge layer next... ■

Modelspec

Tamiya T-55A

Item No. 35257

Paints Used

Tamiya XF-1 Black; XF-3 Yellow; XF-52 Earth; XF-58 Olive Green; X-22 Clear. Vallejo 70822 German Cam Black/Brown; 70995 German Grey; 70924 Russian Uniform; 70950 Black. Halfords Black auto primer. Humbrol Matt 33 Black; Matt 76 Uniform Green; Metalcote 27003 Polished Steel; Matt-Cote varnish.

Accessories Used

Skif KMT-6 Mine plough
Fruimodel ALT 01 Track Links

References

www.tanxheaven.com
(Fantastic reference source, highly recommended).
Inside The Great Tanks by Hans Halberstadt
(ISBN 1 86126 270 1).
Tamiya Model Magazine Issue 97 April/May 2002

- Quality of tooling and ease of construction.
- Some obvious pin marks in hatch interiors and underneath the fenders.

Available from

All good model shops.

Acknowledgements

The Editor for kindly allowing me to submit this article.
Mal Ireson for supplying the Mine Plough and inspiration.
My Wife Janet for encouraging me to weather it some more.
I love ya!!
Darren and Dave for the pigments.





SILENCED IN THE SALIENT

We welcome Lee Lloyd and his stunning model of Dr Porsche's white Elefant...

Like many people, my inspiration for making a model comes from seeing that special photo which captures our imagination. In the case of this model though, the opposite was true. As a child I built 1:72 scale armour models and the old Esci Elefant was the only kit I ever built a duplicate of. I still have a great fondness for this hulking brute of a vehicle that was first seen in the Kursk theatre of operations in 1943 and so when a modeller in our club, Dean Allison, showed me a diorama he was building of an Elefant being recovered by a Berge-Elefant, once again, I was hooked. I therefore deliberately set out to find a photograph that would inspire me to build another of these vehicles.

Luck would have it that I discovered a superb couple of pictures of a Ferdinand knocked out at Kursk very soon after. The vehicle was not too badly

damaged, this meant I wouldn't need to destroy the basic kit to replicate heavy battle damage, as I intended this to be one of my painting projects and not a re-building one. In both the Fedorowicz [1] and the AJ Press [2][3] books there are a series of photographs showing a number of Ferdinands knocked out at Ponyri. One of these vehicles, II02, was one of Hauptman Noak's command vehicles from the sPzJgAbt II/654(656) and is shown having struck a mine that has blown off the foremost LHS bogie, snapped the track and shredded various fittings also on that side. On the RHS there also appears to be damage from a previous mine incident as, while the running gear and tracks are intact, the front RHS fender and surrounding fittings show extensive but superficial damage. Also surrounding the vehicle in the photos are a number

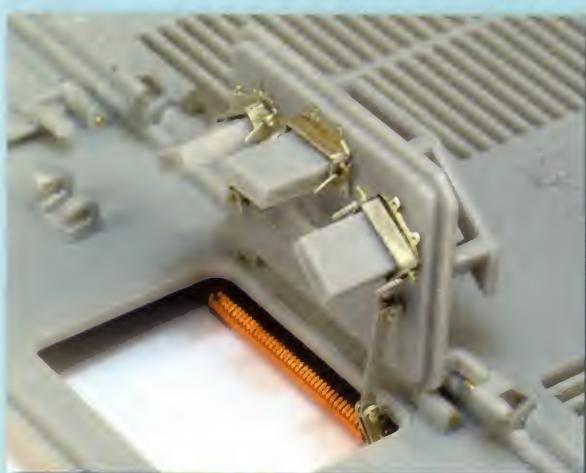
of Soviet soldiers in relaxed and disinterested poses. I knew as soon as I saw these pictures that this would be the model I would have to make.

CONSTRUCTION

After finally hunting down one of the old Dragon Ferdinand kits, (thanks Dean!) I decided that I would need to use a few after market parts if I was going to replicate the damage on the vehicle. I would need tracks [4] so I could spool them off the wheels and some fenders [5] so I could shred them. Other than that the only extras used were a general PE set [6], a metal barrel [7] and some Karaya cable [8] to represent the tow cables. The only actual scratch building I did was to make in brass a new gun travel lock. The reason for this was that the kit parts here were very poor and being in a very prominent position I decided to

sharpen them up. The only other modification I made to the kit was to remove all the location pegs of the bogie suspension units so I could dynamically position the running gear to look like that in the photographs.

Usually when using any sort of PE sets I tend to solder everything together but for this model, with all the parts in general being large, I used CA glue. To replicate the visible damage I punched holes in the fenders before fitting them and then, once glued into place, I manipulated the remains using some snipe nosed pliers to get the damage to look like that in the photos. I did think about adding an interior as Verlinden had recently released a comprehensive set based on, I think, the old Jaguar offering. However as I was not going to open all the hatches, and thus not much of the interior would be visible, I sensibly discarded this notion! ▶



Thanks to the author's modelling skills the incredibly intricate and tiny parts in the Aber etched brass set can be brought to life.



By opening various some of the hatches and pistol ports, as the author has done here, will add interest to the model and will also help recreate that all important abandoned look needed for the final vignette. Note the tiny weld bead around the U shaped lifting eye from Milliput.



The gun travel lock is a work of art on its own. Note the fine solder work and the tiny threaded rod on the clamp retainer.

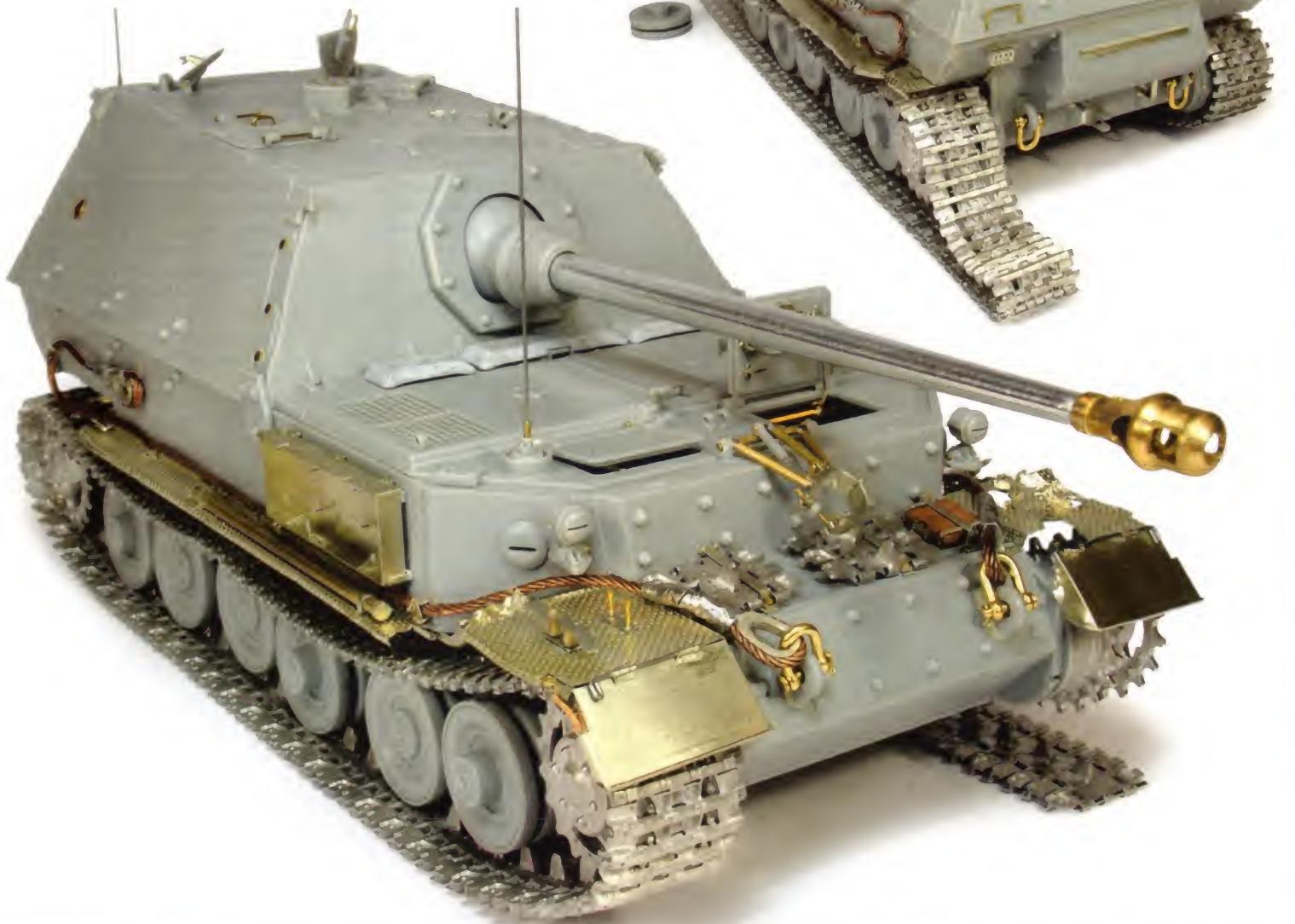


Aber include this very nice pioneer stowage locker in their etched set. In this case the author hasn't added any tools, which will all help to suggest the abandoned look.

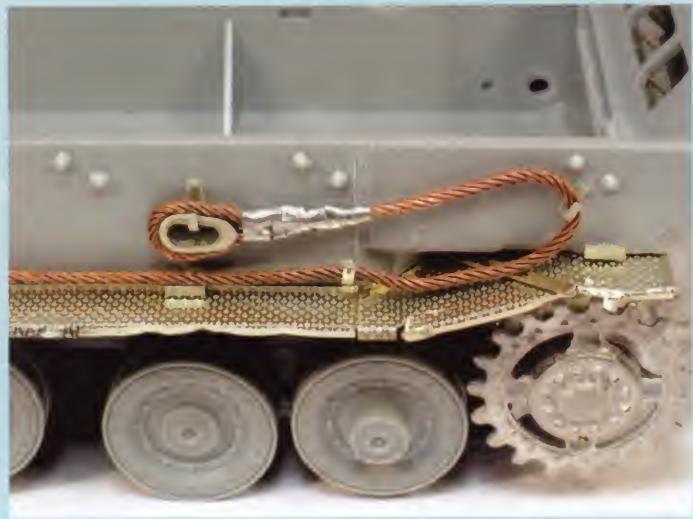


Close-up of the battle damaged left hand fender. Holes were first punched into the brass before being attached to the model and once in place the brass was twisted and torn with snipe nosed pliers.

The assembled model ready for painting. This was the author's first attempt at painting a German vehicle and we at MMI think the completed model looks stunningly realistic.



The Aber etched brass fenders have been suitably mangled due to the mine damage to the front suspension unit. Note the amazing Aber brass towing shackles.



A length of Karaya braided copper wire has been used for the heavy towing cables. This material is much easier to shape than brass, due to the copper being less 'springy' than brass wire.

► PAINTING

As this was the first time I have ever painted a 1:35 scale German vehicle, I was determined to try and get the colours accurate from the start. I undercoated the entire kit with Humbrol matt black and then made up a number of mixes of Vallejo Acrylics [9] listed to give me the basic dark yellow foundation colour I was looking for. A number of people have asked me what paint mixes I used for this and so I have included the entire colour range I used here:

- 1) Mud Brown: all over coat thinned 5/2 paint/water
- 2) Dark Yellow/Water 5/3 paint/water
- 3) Dark Yellow/Beige/Water 2/3/3 paint/paint/water
- 4) Dark Yellow/Beige/Water 3/4/4 paint/paint/water
- 5) Dark Yellow/Sand/Water 2/2/3 paint/paint/water
- 6) Dark Yellow/Sand/Water 2/4/4 paint/paint/water
- 7) Dark Yellow/Sand/Water 2/6/5 paint/paint/water

Note: the paint/water ratio is the number of drops used of water and paint. The water comes from a syringe which has approximately the same drop volume as that which is dispensed from a Vallejo paint bottle so I can be reasonably precise with repeated mixings.

Whilst that I believe the resulting dark yellow paint looks quite effective, in some respects creating it was just an academic exercise since once the green and subsequent weathering was applied the 'cleanliness' of the dark yellow would be significantly changed. All told, then there were eight different layers of paint applied to the kit before I even started to look at the camouflage colour. At this point unfortunately I started to have severe problems with my airbrush which started to work its ticket but as luck would have it, Robin Carpenter from Cammett [10] came to my rescue by supplying me with a new one. This was an Iwata HP CH and it was a joy to use. By this time, I had applied the green camo to the model with my old Aztec and whilst this looks quite rough, I think it is more in keeping with the look of the actual vehicle. All other airbrushing effects done subsequently were with the Iwata and I can honestly say that I have never picked up any other tool in this hobby that has been such a pleasure to use. ►



Tech Tip!

The author took all his own photos for this article. It is best to fix the camera to a tripod and use the built-in self-timer due to the long exposure times with this lighting set up. As long as the lamps are all of a similar colour temperature the cameras metering system should be able to adjust the white balance.



Something that is often overlooked, but will really make the most of the model is a good quality display base. The author had this one custom made by Armstrong Bases.



Tech Tip!

All the basic weathering on the kit was done with oils. No specific filters or washes were used, but instead he built up all the staining on the kit working on small sections at a time, using the oil paint spot method and blended this in with either turpentine or Humbrol thinners, or depending upon the effect needed. By using turps, the author found that the oil paint dissolved better and thus better colour gradient effects could be achieved.

"As this was the first time I have ever painted a 1:35 scale German vehicle, I was determined to try and get the colours accurate from the start"



◀ WEATHERING

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Once I was happy with the basic weathering I then turned to a new product which I had never tried before. Robin Carpenter had supplied me with some Tensocrom Active Surface Agents paints at the same time he had supplied my new airbrush. These paints are a thinned acrylic medium, very much in the style of a ready mixed filter. However, they are quite opaque and I found that they were just perfect for applying to localised areas with a small brush to create interesting areas of colour variation. I made special use of the blues and pink (fuel colours) when painting the engine deck to replicate a fuel spill from a Jerry can. Not being a big fan of painting models at the best of times, I nevertheless found the Tensocrom paint superb to use. It is very easy to apply (no mixing of any sort) and being acrylic is easy to wash off if you make a mistake in its application.

BASE WORK

For the groundwork, I wanted to have quite a high box which was hollow so I could sit the kit in it. I wanted the wheels/ground level of the scene to be below the eye level of the box to try and give an impression of weight with the vehicle partially sunken into the ground as in the photos. Dave Armstrong from Armstrong Bases kindly made up a box for me from my specifications.

The actual groundwork was made up (in one of the wife's kitchen bowls) from coconut fibre, plaster, Celluclay, fine sand and some of my sons brown poster paint. This was ladled onto a polystyrene former in the base box and into this was pressed the kit to create the 'sunken' look before everything had hardened off. The groundwork was then painted with a variety of greens and browns from the Humbrol range and once dry, some pigment powders blended on top to create a dusty environment. ►



The subtle streaking can be seen to good effect in this shot of the rear plate. The green camo colour was applied with the aid of an Iwata HP CH airbrush, which the author used for the first time on this project.



Note how localised washes have brought out the fine weld detail of the massive armour plates which go to make up the massive box-like superstructure.

For the figures I had decided to use a set of the superb Tahn items [12] depicting the Soviet soldiers examining the knocked out vehicle. I confess I did have a go at painting one of them but made such a mess that I chickened out and got my good friend Mark Neville from our club to paint them for me. Mark is a real speed king when it comes to painting and a couple of nights later I had two great painted figures that I could use - cheers mate!

CONCLUSION

From my brief descriptions here it probably seems as if I rattled this model off in short order but in truth it took me nearly five months to paint as I constantly kept checking with people to make sure that I had the colours just right. Many thanks must go to all those who helped out and kept me on the right track. A special mention must be made to the guys in the Tyneside IPMS club for being such a wonderful source of help and inspiration. ■



MEET THE AUTHOR

Returned to modelling around 2000 when my wife bought me an Academy Tiger 1 kit. Since then I have fought to keep modelling as she does her best to make me stop. Probably a good job my son Paris is not really interested in plastic kits..... ■

Modelspec

Dragon Ferdinand Kit No.6317

Sets used

Tank figures (12), Friul Model tracks (ALT62), Aber gun barrel (35114)

References

Combat History of the 654th Schwere Panzerjager Abteilung, Karlheinz Munch, JJ Fedorowicz, ISBN 0921991606
Ferdinand, Elefant vol. 1, Tadeusz Melleman, AJ Press
Ferdinand, Elefant vol. 2, Tadeusz Melleman, AJ Press

http://www.friulmodel.hu/_tree.php?r=6&dir=kezdet/Metal%20tracks
http://www.aber.net.pl/store/catalogue_parts/35124/35124.htm
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http://www.aber.net.pl/store/catalogue_parts/barrel/35114/014.htm
<http://www.accurate-armour.com/>
<http://www.acrylicosvallejo.com/>
<http://www.cammett.co.uk/>
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Available from

Dragon - All good model shops
Friulmodel available from Historex Agents
Aber available from Historex Agents





PESKY PERSHING

The Editor manages to build Tamiya's new 1:48 M26 kit in five minutes, then takes five hours to get the tracks to fit!

As with all of Tamiya's quarter scale armour models, construction starts with the metal lower hull tub, onto which the two plastic side panels and rear plate, which contain all the detail are attached. These parts will need to be fixed in place using a cyano adhesive. Stages 2,3,4 deal with the running gear assembly, unlike its 1:35 brother only the drive sprockets contain Tamiya's familiar poly caps, this means the road wheels will have to be glued

in place. A point to note regarding the final drive casings that the sprockets attach onto, is they have four small triangular strengthening webs, these webs were a post war addition, and will therefore need to be removed if modelling a WWII variant. This will be a rather delicate job due to the size small size of the webs and their close proximity to the surrounding detail.

TROUBLESON TRACKS

Stage 5 is where I stopped having fun building this model, for some

reason I had a real nightmare fitting the link and length tracks. I chose to make each side into two separate sections so they could be painted and weathered completely before fitting to the running gear. All went well to start with as they were temporarily taped in place while the Liquid Poly glue set. Once the glue had set firmly I removed the track sections for painting and weathering, it was only when I came to refit them, that they mysteriously seemed to be about half a link too short! No

matter how much I tried, every time I glued one end the other would pull apart, in the end I had to resort to heating the tracks with a hairdryer and with the aid of my hands, feet and teeth managed to hold the hairdryer, model, glue and accelerator all at the same time! Easy when you know how.

Stages 6 and 7 are very simple and only involve fitting the hull machine gun and securing the upper and lower hull halves together using the supplied screws, I would recommend supplementing



Tamiya have supplied the engine grilles as separate parts and this will come in handy when engine sets become available, secondly it hides the fixing screw.

The forward hull fixing screw hides under the radio operators hatch, which is all very clever, but will make it difficult if you want to put a crew figure in.



Tamiya have stuck with the metal 'bath tub' lower hull, but on this occasion hardly any remains visible when the plastic side plates and rear plate have been attached.



The rectangular hole above the rear light is to locate the rear lifting eye, however some filler will be needed between the plastic upper hull section and metal lower.

The metal lower hull part had a couple of casting seams that required some rather vigorous filing and sanding. Note the joint along the bow, which will require filling before painting can commence.

the screws with some superglue along all appropriate mating surfaces. These two screws are cleverly hidden once in place by one of the engine louvres and the hull machine gunners hatch. The only downside would be if you want to open all the hatches to crew the Pershing or add an engine, as and when I'm sure they will become available from the likes of Verlinden Productions for example.

TURRET

Construction starts with the gun

and mantlet. The gun barrel looks very nice and only requires one side of the muzzle brake fitting, and the slight mould seam running the length of tube removing before its ready to fit. Poly caps are supplied to make the gun free to move up and down. The upper and lower turret halves fit together nicely and require only the bare minimum clean-up with some fine wet and dry, this was followed with some re-texturing by stippling on Liquid Poly with an old stubby brush. Finally the smaller fixtures

can be added, including the turret hatches, track tools, aerials and spare track links.

PAINTING

After the obligatory coat of automotive grey primer the Pershing was ready for a coat of Olive Drab. As usual I chose to use Vallejo's acrylic range of paints, starting with Model Air Yellow Olive 013, which would act as the shadow for the pre-shading technique, this was followed by misting a mix of Hemp 71023,

Japanese Uniform colour 923 and Interior Green 010. Once I was happy with this shade, I then added a couple of drops of Khaki 988 to this. With these colours in place the one thing you could say was the model no longer had a monotone finish to it, this is something I have been trying of late, as I have found that my usual painting techniques just don't show up very well in the magazine, therefore I have tried to be less subtle with my pre-shading effect. By the time the washes and filters have been applied the



Before final construction could take place, the tracks and running gear were completely painted and weathered before the hull halves were joined and the side skirts attached.



The Pershing was base coated with Vallejo's Model Air Yellow Olive, which would act as the shadow for the following colours used to make up the olive drab finish.



The basic colours have now been airbrushed on and the model is now ready for a couple of light coats of Johnson's Klear prior to applying the decals.

► shading tends to disappear. So now I try and take this into account when spraying the base colours on, making sure they contrast more than they used to.

DECALS

Tamiya include decal options for three vehicles, two from WWII and one from Korea, I chose to model 'Fireball', one of the WWII options, which was famous for knocking

out several German tanks on the same day, if memory serves me right? As usual Tamiya's decals are a little on the thick side, and to help get them to settle down, I first gave the entire model a couple of light coats of Johnson's Klear and once dry, the decals were helped on with Micro set, but instead of using Micro sol to snuggle the decal down I chose to use the much stronger Daco Products

setting solution. The decals settled down very well with no silvering, unfortunately because the decals are so thick they still had a pronounced lip around them, the only thing I could do was to apply another coat of Johnson's Klear to help blend these edges into the surrounding surface.

With the decals in place and the top coat of Klear fully dry, a final coat of Vallejo Matt varnish was

sprayed on, and thankfully removed any trace of the decal's carrier film.

WEATHERING

With the basic painting completed it was time to start adding the washes and filters and for the initial wash I used the Mig Productions Abteilung 502 oil paints thinned with Mig Productions thinners.

Once the washes had dried I ►



Tech Tip!

A simple and very effective way to replicate dried mud or dust on any vehicle is to use one of the Mig Productions range of pigments. By mixing the pigment with some thinners, white spirits in this case, the mix is then liberally applied to the running gear, then simply left to dry. Once dry the excess is simply brushed off with a wide flat brush to reveal a quick, simply and reliable way of weathering your latest project.



Some wear and tear has been added to the base of the barrel and the top of the mantlet. This area would receive the most traffic as the turret crew mount and dismount their vehicle.



The fluid spills around the radiator cap were produced by mixing burnt umber oil paint with Humbrol Gloss Cote and then thinned heavily with white spirit. Tensocrom oil was used to replicate the other stains.



Some of the road wheel hubs received a pin wash of thinned burnt umber oil paint to simulate lubricating oil leaking from the centre caps.



With a coat of matt varnish the decals take on that all important painted on look. Of note is how overscale the guard for the horn is, something that we hope the etched brass manufacturers will help with.



The spare track links on the turret side were first painted in Vallejo German Camouflage Black/Brown, followed by a wash of Vallejo Light rust, and finally Mig productions Rubble Dust pigments.



The cupola vision blocks were painted with Vallejo Reflective Green followed by a couple of coats of Humbrol Gloss Cote. The vice shaped tool on the turret side is used when removing or fitting track links.



Evidence of the troublesome tracks can be seen here where the links on the left hand track have started to pull apart slightly. Lots of scrapes and scratches to the lower bow plate help to give the impression that this tank has spent most of its time ploughing through the rubble of ruined German towns.



As mentioned in the main text, the triangular strengthening webs on the final drive housing's should only be seen on post war M26s, and not the T26E3s. The T26E3s saw action toward the end of the Second World War, so most of the T26E3s have no strengthening webs. However, if you do decide to fit them, make



Sin Industries Filter designed for dark yellow was perfect for adding a grubby finish to the fenders. Check out the Mig Productions web site for the full range of these handy filters.

added some scuffs and scratches by using the fried egg technique, where a lightened version of the base colour is painted on with a thin brush before a smaller patch of a German Camo Black/Brown is painted in the centre of the lighter patch.

To tone down and blend in the scuffs and scratches I first gave

the fender and stowage locker areas a filter wash using Sin Industries Brown filter for Dark Yellow, this colour gave the fender areas a nice grubby look.

Lastly some graphite powder was applied using a fibre stick to areas that would suffer from the highest wear, such as the crew hatches, the base of the gun barrel and top edge of the mantlet.

CONCLUSION

Overall this was a great little kit to put together, but I do wish Tamiya would bin the metal lower hull sections, by having metal parts means that a cyano glue (superglue) has to be used, not good for younger modellers to use! Out of the box the Pershing is very good, but there is certainly room for the super-detaller to step in with items such as thinner scale headlight and periscope guards, hatch handles and the .50 cal machine gun pistol grips. Worst for me were the link and length tracks, having made them up as per the instructions, I found they were too tight and every time I had tried to attach them around the wheels one of the links would pull apart, and in the end it felt like I had glued the whole track run twice! ■



Tech Tip!

The decals supplied in the Tamiya kit are on the thick side, but settle down very well with the aid of Daco Products strong decal setting solution. Once a coat of matt varnish had been applied the decal film all but disappeared

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:48 M26 Pershing (T26E3) Item No.32537

Paints and weathering products

Mig Productions Abteilung 502 oil paints

All paints came from the Vallejo Model and Model Air range of acrylics

Yellow Olive 013

Japanese Uniform colour 923

Interior Green 010

Hemp 71023

Khaki 988

Vallejo Panzer Aces Track Primer 304

Sin Industries Brown Filter for Dark Yellow

Graphite powder

Mig Productions European Earth P028

Beach Sand P030

Rubble Dust P234

Industrial City Dirt P039

Ease of assembly and beautifully engineered.

Metal lower hull troublesome tracks.

Available from

Available from all good model shops

Rating



CROSSING THE LINE

Graeme Carruthers describes how he created this imaginative little scene, including his realistic cornfield...



Hello there everybody, my name is Graeme and I am a Shermaholic. Now being a Shermaholic means doesn't mean that you forsake all other kits it means that you will return to the Sherman on a regular basis and try to build as many of the different variants as possible. Some signs of Shermaholica are a large and ever growing spare parts collection and just as large a collection of resin conversions all waiting to be built.

Now this article is not really to talk about the Sherman model itself but more to do with the diorama on which it sits. However, I will first give a taster of what

went into the tank. The upper hull and turret come from a superb resin conversion from Armoured Brigade Models, designed to create a British Sherman 1B, M4 105 Howitzer. The lower hull is a spare Dragon item and the suspension comes from a mixture of Dragon and Italeri with Tamiya wheels. Now the diameter of the centre hole in the Tamiya wheels is too large for the Italeri/Dragon suspension arms and they will just spin loosely and sit incorrectly. I took the plastic tube from an empty Bic ball point pen and pushed it into each wheel then cut the tube flush with the wheel. Now the suspension arms fit snugly

into the Tamiya wheel. Ah, the joys of kit bashing!

DETAILS

The tank is finished off with Aber etch, Formations tools, Lion Marc suspension skids and bolts and Karaya .30 cal barrels. Phew!

The stowage items are part of the Legends Sherman stowage set. The figure bodies came from Cromwell Models Afrika Korps tank crew and there are no prizes for guessing that the heads come from the excellent Hornet range. The aerial is a guitar string and involved an amusing experience in a music shop explaining what I was after and why. (Yes it's the G string

you have to ask for! The Ed) I had wanted to make a Polish tank, and had sourced the relevant decals including the large tank name on the hull sides; however these were old decals and when they dried on the kit they silvered terribly. The unditching logs, which are painted twigs from came to the rescue and hid the offending decals. Tank serial numbers are often missing from Sherman 1Bs so I decided I didn't need to add any.

ADDING SOME COLOUR

The tank was painted in the usual way with a Tamiya acrylic base, with oil paints on top to weather down the base colour. Scratches



and chips in the paint were kept to a minimum as this was a new vehicle. There were lots of cornfields surrounding my house when I grew up, and playing there made you very dusty, so I wanted the tank to be liberally covered in dust. I brushed the completed tank with lots of light dust coloured weathering powders and then rubbed off the excess from around areas of crew movement away with a dry cotton bud. I had for a time wanted to add foliage to a vehicle, and had several packs of Eduard etch lying around just waiting to be used. I draped some branch sections over the tank and bent them to

the desired shape. I then removed them, to thicken out the branches by letting superglue run along the branches in order to give a more rounded profile. This method didn't work particularly well as the glue tended to pool in balls at the areas where branches joined each other. I think I will try thicker glue next time to try and control the glue better, or if anyone has a better technique then let me know.

With all the different components of the kit it may appear an expensive way to build a model, and if I had bought all these items at the same time then I wouldn't have been able to ▶



To start the process of reproducing the corn, natural hemp packaging string was cut into short lengths.



Once the hemp has been cut into short lengths, they were then dyed by soaking them in heavily watered down acrylic paint, then left to dry fully.



After drying, the ends of small clumps of the hemp were dipped into a small pool of superglue, making sure only the top couple of millimetres were covered, these were then immediately dunked into a small bowl of beach sand.



The finished corn. As the author mentions in the main text the sand is the perfect colour to replicate the corn ears and requires no further painting.



The dusty look the author wanted to replicate can be seen to good effect from this high angle shot. Liberally applying pigments with a large brush before removing the excess creates the perfect finish.



Painting the tarpaulins in differing colours adds some visual interest to the model, but it must be remembered to keep the tones muted, if they are too bright it can look unrealistic.



The fence posts were made from match sticks with the heads removed and were painted in various greys to simulate old weathered wood.



Here we can see how the author has flattened the corn under the area where the Sherman sits. Thanks to a self tapping screw through the hull and into the base the tank is pulled down onto the groundwork giving the impression of weight.

afford a pint to cry into, but the only thing that was bought new was Armoured Brigade conversion. All the other bits and pieces came from the spares box.

GROUNDWORK

Now for the diorama. I wanted the tank to give the impression that it was moving forward so I decided to represent it moving uphill and out of a cornfield and onto a section of railway. Having the tank going up a slope makes it more visually interesting, and having the vehicle leaving one area of terrain to another helps to give the impression of movement.

The base is an old display base that was on sale in a local model railway shop so I bought a few of them as they are a nice size. I built up the height with segments of polystyrene cut to shape and glued into place with white paper glue. The diorama sides were made from thin sheets of plastic card cut to shape and super-glued onto the curved lip of the wooden base.

To make the ground, I poured plaster of Paris over the base to create the basic shape I wanted, then while it was still wet I poured on a layer of railway model ballast. The tracks come from the French company Ironside and were pre-cut to shape and pressed in to the wet plaster and gravel. When this had dried, another layer of gravel mixed with white glue thinned with water was poured onto the tracks to give the impression that they are

settled in and not just sitting on the gravel. Once the plaster had dried, the ground work was painted in various light earth tones and when dry a layer of static grass was glued along the edge of the areas that would be grassed. The grass in the field comes from a hanging basket liner. The grass material was teased from the rubber backing and glued onto the base with more white glue. The grass was then trimmed with scissors to achieve the desired look, then dry-brushed with various tones of green, then brown and yellows to give a feeling of dry grass. The fence line was simply trimmed and painted matches in tones of grey to look like old wood. Verlinden barbed wire finished the fence off. Small dried flowers painted red and Woodland Scenics foliage completed the pasture corner of the diorama. Now for the cornfield.

Corn consists of the stalk and the ear, if you just make the stalk then you have only made long grass, so I had to think of a way to represent the ear. I first made the basic stalk by cutting lengths of a natural hemp package string and dyeing them in a bowl of heavily watered down acrylic paint. After drying I took small groups of the stalks and stippled them into a palette which had been spread with super glue, this covered only the top couple of millimetres of the stalks. This was immediately dunked into a bowl of fine beach sand which creates



the ears. There was no need to paint the sand as it is naturally a good enough colour. Attaching the corn, at first was more of a problem, usually little clumps are made and glued as bunches but this looks unnatural and only needs tend to grow like this. I instead took small amounts of the corn and spread them randomly and tightly together trying to make it look like a packed, sown field. In the area of the Sherman tracks the corn was

glued down flat, and under the hull the corn was bent at an angle. At the edge of the field the corn was squashed flat by placing the model against the corn, and pushing it down so it splayed down in an realistic fashion.

The railway signal light was built with scraps of plastic rod and sheet. The covers were made from tin sheet

I gave the diorama a final dusting with the same coloured

pigments that covered the tank to give a sense of harmony between the two objects. I removed the tank's turret, and screwed the tank onto the diorama with a wood screw through the lower hull and into the plaster base. This pushed the tank deeper onto the base, and meant that the tanks moveable suspension and tracks conformed to the shape of the railway. The screw is hidden by the corn.

CONCLUSION

All in all, this was a fun build and was an enjoyable way to spend the long, warm Scottish summer evenings. The Armoured Brigade conversion is excellent and can only be matched by Formations in terms of quality. Now looking at my modelling table, there are three more Shermans sitting in various stages of construction awaiting completion. Now, which one will I work on first? ■

"The lower hull is a spare Dragon item and the suspension comes from a mixture of Dragon and Italeri with Tamiya wheels"



This low angle shot really emphasises the movement the author wanted to create. Note the captured German helmet on the headlight guard, something often seen in war time photos.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Hi there, I am Graeme Carruthers and I am 35 years old. Due to an unfortunate incident involving an Britains only poisonous snake, my ankle, and an ambulance journey to A+E at Beltring a couple of years ago I am also known to some in the modelling community as 'Snake'. Cheers for the sympathy lads! I have been modelling on and off since I was 10, and like most modellers I began building mostly German stuff. However, recently my tastes have become more refined to all things Olive Drab or Middle Eastern. I spend my time drawing archaeological artefacts by day and building armour by night while listening to the kind of scary rock music your parents always warned you about. This is my second article for the magazine and hopefully I can finish some of the partly built kits on my desk and write some more. ■

Certainly an imposing sight as 30 tons of Sherman tank come crashing over your local railway line .

Modelspec

Armoured Brigade British Sherman IB conversion

Kits used

Armoured Brigade Models Sherman IB Conversions
Lion Roar Sherman Suspension Skids and Bolts
Legend Sherman Stowage
Karaya .30cal barrels
Formations Allied Tools set

- Top quality conversion for a commonwealth Sherman.
- None really, didn't I mention it's a Sherman conversion!

Available from

All available from www.friendshipmodels.co.uk
Figures from www.cromwellmodels.com
Hornet Heads from historex-agents.co.uk
Railway sections from Ironside Models at
www.lsamodels.co.uk
All other bits and pieces from the spares box.

Rating



FIREFLY

**Could this be the ultimate Sherman?
Bruce Crosby gives us the low down.**

The most popular Sherman kit has to be the Firefly which was a standard vehicle up-gunned with a British 17 Pdr anti-tank gun. It has appeared in plastic kit form and as resin conversions, but here is what may prove to be the definitive kit. I have crawled over the Bovington Tank Museums Firefly on more than one occasion and it is obvious to me that Tasca's researchers have done exactly the same, only a lot better!

Once you buy the kit and get it home, have a good look at the sprues under a strong desk lamp. You'll need it to see the incredible detail that Tasca has incorporated, not overtly, but with subtlety and finesse.

The lower hull isn't the usual tub we are used to; a series of flat plates have to be assembled. However, nothing is lost in accuracy, the fit is perfect and detail is excellent. At the rear the engine access doors are individual items with separate handles. The smoke candle boxes are fully represented in plastic with etched brass for the handles and over this lot is a fully detailed towing attachment. Above the doors there is an etched brass screen, the exhausts and a full width exhaust grid plate. At the front is a multi-part three piece transmission which is just phenomenal. It has the cast numbers finely rendered, very subtlety cast surface finish and details I wasn't aware of until I checked my photo collection! The inside faces of the final drives have the lubricant filler points, the outsides have bolt holes. The flanges between sections are moulded in two pieces so you get a proper separation line as well as the correct detail on each side.

The upper hull is a one piece moulding, with the exception of the rear plate and the engine deck. The driver's cast hoods have part numbers moulded on, the armoured filler cap covers

are separate items and the weld seams are simply outstanding.

The turret has a superb cast finish, adding to what I consider to be the best shape I've seen so far. The port on the left hand side is slide moulded in place with a separate hatch. The commander's cupola has internal padding in place and casting numbers on the top edge. The hatches again have tiny foundry numbers, some on the inside face! All overhead hatches have separate pads, grab handles, etc. These aren't your run-of-the-mill plastic handles either. We are talking very, very finely done. There are tiny etched brass parts provided for the turret front left side tie downs with their positions clearly marked. The turret extension has two top plates, one with round access plates, the other with the square type.

The 17 Pdr gun is plastic. Nothing wrong with that, or maybe we are getting a bit blasé with kits full to the brim with extras like turned metal gun barrels. What is provided is good. There are two types of muzzle brake; one with round brake holes and the other with square.

Tasca's Sherman suspension set has been on the market for a while now, but it is still easily the best available. Two wheel patterns, the original five spoke fabricated type and the stamped type are provided. The spoked versions have the grease nipples on the outer hub so take care to get them positioned in the bogies the right way round. The stamped ones have separate rear face discs as have the optional solid idlers. There are three drive sprocket options, two types of skids and the housings have delicate numbers cast in.

The tracks are the all metal T-62 style often fitted to the M4A4. These are made up from two lengths per side and they are well detailed. They look a bit stiff until you handle them - they are incredibly flexible and will fit round

the drive sprockets beautifully.

The etched brass fret has the turret tie downs, lamp guards and side skirt brackets, plus there are the periscope guards, intake mesh, etc. Everything is numbered on the fret, making it easy to use. There is a plastic jig included on sprue "C" which is a former for the lamp guards. These are also provided in plastic if you are wary of using etched metal.

There are four decal options, two British, the others for New Zealand and Poland. They are produced by Cartograf and have their hallmark clarity and register.

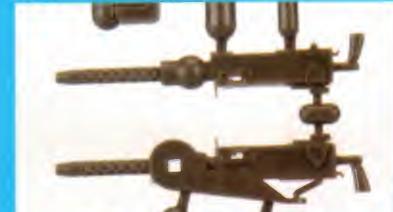
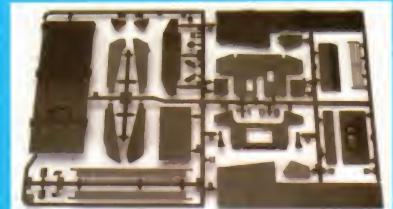
Sprue G has most of the detail items on it such as lamps, periscopes, lamp guards and lifting eyes. Tasca have copied the centre part of the sprue to give us the periscopes and lamp lenses in clear plastic. Nice!

As well as the muzzle brake options, there is also the "Houseboat" camouflage shade bracketry for one of the tanks and then there is the hull MG port cover. The co-driver's position was used as ammo storage on the Firefly, so the MG opening was plated over. Tasca has provided two different plate options! There is optional appliqué armour for the hull. Topping off the kit is a commander figure, the usual torso, separate arms and head we are used to.

Will Tasca produce more Sherman varieties? A close look at the sprues and you'll find some items that aren't used on this kit. C2 and C2B are the hull MG canvas cover clips for 47 and 56 degree hulls. C41 is a hull MG, not used on this version. A shame as it is beautifully moulded, along with the turret co-axial MG. 99% of the Firefly specific bits are on sprue F, and the British only fittings are on another. My guess? 2007 will bring the definitive M4 and M4A1 kits from Tasca.

Overall, Tasca has produced a superb kit. No reservations, buy it! ■

Bruce Crosby





EASY DOZE IT

Academy jump on the Sherman bandwagon with their rendition of the howitzer armed 'Easy Eight', but what's the verdict..?

I am a fan of all Allied armour, more so when the subject has an element of individuality, so when handed this kit I looked forward to opening the box. Now before I go any further I must come clean and say when I think of building a Sherman my thought is of the Tamiya and Dragon range with their faults, but I am not a rivet counter and stand firm by the belief that 'if it looks right' it's good enough for me and on this basis I have complied this short preview.

The kit is based on the 105mm Sherman (Late) with E8 suspension and at first glance looks to be well produced, on further inspection some of the sprues start to show the sign that all is not well, sink holes and flash marks are a plenty, maybe this is because the cast date for three of the sprues is 1997.

This is not the case for the whole kit, three sprues are more up to date and for the most part show nice detail, this does not extend to the 105mm barrel that has sink holes and will need to be addressed before

installation.

The curse of the Sherman has struck this model, the weld seams on the hull are recessed, still the major manufacturers insist on doing it, why? Well maybe in this case because the hull is from an old kit we should let Academy off, I want to, but as I look forward to sticking thin strips of Evergreen plastic to the hull I wish this was avoidable.

Being a bit of a fan of the rubber band style of tracks, I was disappointed with the kit items, you are either going to spend a lot of time removing flash from them or get out your wallet and purchase some replacements, the choice is yours.

There are good points, the pioneer tool's have a nice strap and buckle on them as apposed to just a band of thick plastic running across them, the .50 and .30 cal MG's are well represented with a open or closed ammo box, the brush guards for the hatches don't look to out of scale (to my photographs of the Sherman in the American Paratroopers museum in Normandy) You also get a nice range of water, petrol (Gas) and oil cans with the kit.

A big bonus is the lower hull having moulded sponson base plates for the hull top to sit on, this stops the unsightly gaps, seen on Tamiya kits when looking down through the hatches.

Moving on to the Dozer blade assembly. This shows

what Academy can do, the detail is good with raised weld lines and good representation of the mechanics of the mechanism, the nut and bolt detail is crisp and well represented.

At the bottom of the box the small decal sheet lies, not the biggest or boldest I have seen but then again American Sherman's are not known for decoration. Two options are given, Korea 1950 USMC or Korea 1950, draw from that your own conclusions. I did try to find the M4A3E8 with Dozer fit in my WWII reference books, but with no luck, to see if alternative markings could be provided, I don't have a big library on the subject so maybe I don't have the right book?

In conclusion, it must be difficult for main stream model producers faced with the onslaught of Dragon's releases, lets face it as modellers we have never had it so good, metal barrels, etched frets, an abundance of extra personnel kit all mixed in with a standard kit that is second to none in detail and subject, how do they do it? If the other manufacturers are to stay in the game, releasing 'refreshed' or 'altered' kits is probably not the best move without correcting all the faults that have been highlighted by the modelling press, the level of the standard kit must be equalled to that of Dragon or the modeller will vote with his/her pocket. This is not a bad kit, it's just not a kit that sets the juices flowing. ■



WINTRY WONDER PRODUCTS

The Editor takes a look at some interesting new products from Deluxe Materials.

Delete Materials have been steadily producing some really useful products and materials just perfect for us modellers, so I thought it would be a good idea to check out three of their latest.

Back in 2004 I wrote an article on building a diorama depicting

the allied landings on Omaha beach during D-Day for our sister magazine TM&M. For that diorama I got the chance to try out some of the Deluxe Materials products for making water, including waves, the whitecaps and the foam left behind as the wave retreats. As usual I had left myself very little time to

finish the diorama for the deadline. Therefore it was essential I got it right first time, and thanks to how easy these products were to use and how realistic the final results were, I'm now a real fan of them and want to let everyone know how good they are. ■

All these products can be obtained from all good model shops who deal with the Deluxe Materials network of distributors and Historex Agents 01304 206720.



SCENIC SNOW FLAKES

Scenic Snowflakes is a new product designed specifically for reproducing realistic snow for most modelling scales. This white flake powder is perfect creating the effect of fallen snow. Scenic snow comes in a handy 500ml container, which has perforations on the inner lid to help dispense the snow evenly without fear of it all coming out in one big lump.

These Snowflakes can be left loose on the groundwork or fixed in place with most popular spray adhesives, such as m Photomount and Spraymount or thinned PVA glue in a garden plant sprayer.

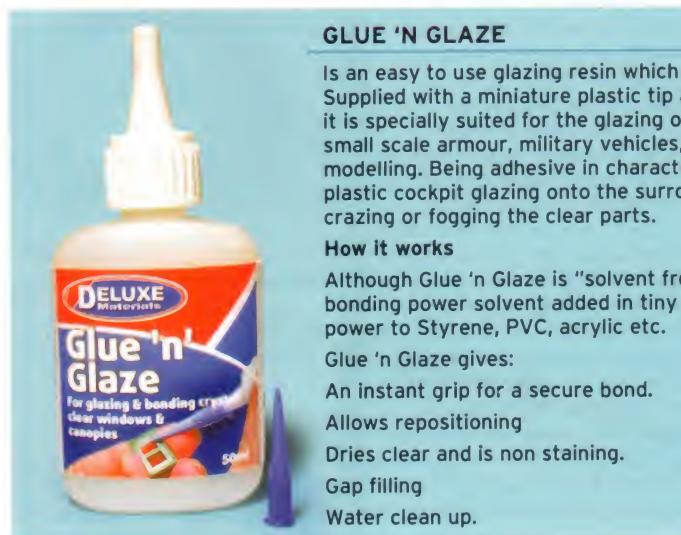


SCENIC SHOVELLED SNOW

Scenic Shovelled Snow is a unique type of snowflake that has developed for creating special snow effects where "bulk" snow is required for added realism. It is ideal for piled, heaped, and is the perfect accompaniment for the regular Snowflake. This product can also be used to make items such as snowball or even a snowman, to help add some interest and a little fun to your wintry scene.

Because of its white flake powder is perfect for creating heavy, deep and drifting snow on both the ground and on trees and foliage, this snow and can be fixed in place with the aid of most spray adhesives or Deluxe Materials own range of bonding products.

Being packaged in 500ml containers you get plenty to use and so I think offers very good value for money.



GLUE 'N GLAZE

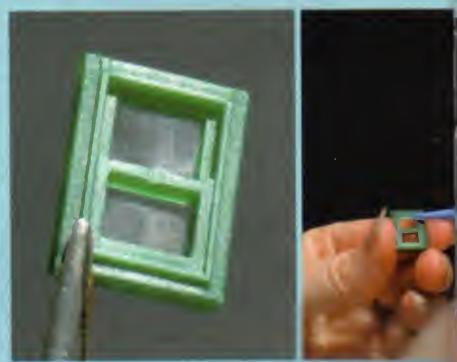
Is an easy to use glazing resin which duals as a cockpit adhesive. Supplied with a miniature plastic tip and a soft easy to squeeze bottle it is specially suited for the glazing of miniature windows found on small scale armour, military vehicles, aircraft and even model railway modelling. Being adhesive in character the resin will also bond clear plastic cockpit glazing onto the surrounding framework without fear of crazing or fogging the clear parts.

How it works

Although Glue 'n Glaze is "solvent free", the unique formula has a high bonding power solvent added in tiny amounts to give it unique bonding power to Styrene, PVC, acrylic etc.

Glue 'n Glaze gives:

- An instant grip for a secure bond.
- Allows repositioning
- Dries clear and is non staining.
- Gap filling
- Water clean up.



The window has had a temporary backing film added before the Glue 'n' Glaze is applied, this will ensure an even finish.

1

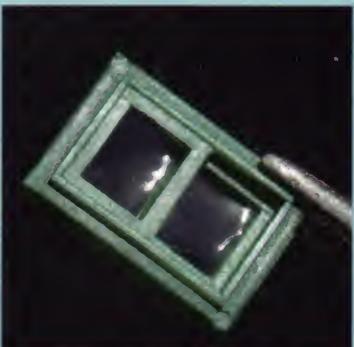
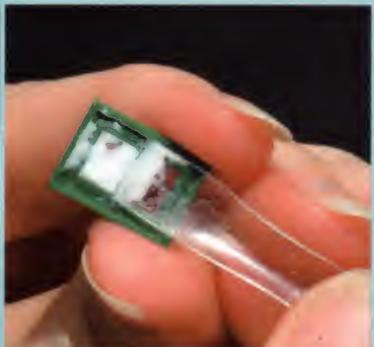


(1) Shows a ready to go model to create a snow scene.
(2) After application of Scenic Snow, Shovelled Snow was added using a teaspoon. Using a quarter inch brush dipped into Scenic Bond the Shovelled Snow was sculpted and set in place. This snow was used on trees and bushes to give a heavy hanging effect as in real life. The wall was dry brushed off.
(3) The snow man was made by mixing Shovelled Snow with Scenic Bond and moulding to shape.

2



3



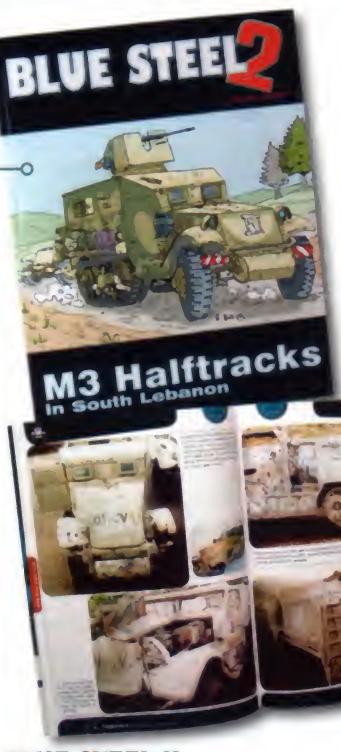
Glue 'n' Glaze is ideal for filling in small windows, and due to the small nozzle precision application is made easy.

Once the Glue 'n' Glaze has started to set, the backing film can be removed, the resin will dry to a crystal clear finish.

The finished window, quick simple and very effective. When very small windows need glazing, Glue 'n' Glaze can be used to fill in these pains, by working from the outsides to the centre, without the need for any backing film.



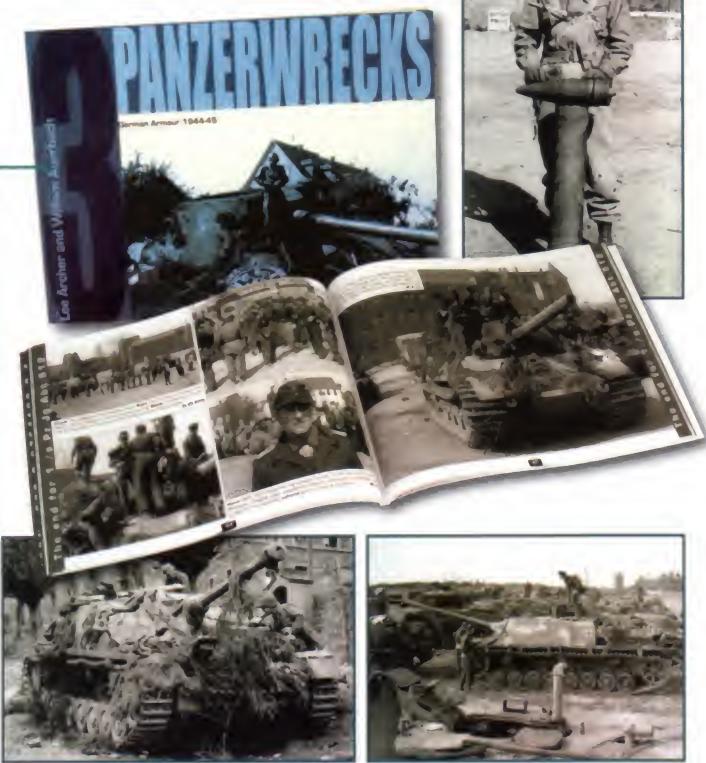
Book Reviews



BLUE STEEL II
M3 HALF-TRACK IN SOUTH LEBANON
MOUSTAFA EL-ASSAD
ISBN N/A

With one version already released and both Dragon and Trumpeter promising more, the US half-track is going through a well deserved renaissance. Moustafa El-Assad is well known to modellers around the world, (see his photos in issue 9) as not only a modeller of, but a documenter of the military actions that happen around his home in Lebanon. This his second volume is chock full of large clearly captioned colour photos of the numerous M3s which were given to the Lebanese by the Israelis. All of the half-tracks covered have been altered in some fashion as need dictated and the photos show interior and exterior details allowing you the information needed to go ahead and convert your own model. A further bonus are the pages dedicated to an army barracks and shows useful photos of bunkers and concrete checkpoints. This book has great potential for kit conversions and diorama builders and cannot be recommended enough.

Available from www.aviationbookcentre.com
Graeme Carruthers

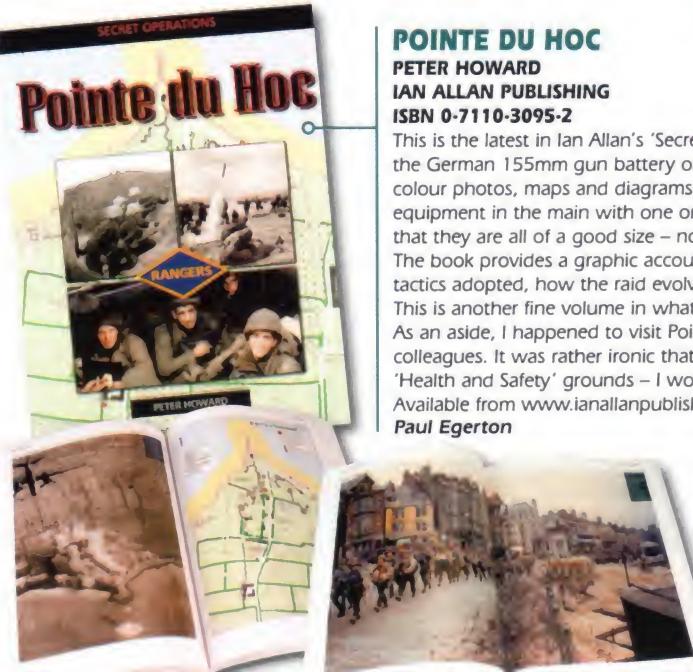


PANZERWRECKS VOL 3
LEE ARCHER AND WILLIAM AUERBACH
WWW.PANZERWRECKS.COM
ISBN 0-9754183-2-1

The third volume in this series of beautifully researched and captioned books doesn't disappoint. If you have the first two volumes you will know what to expect, if you haven't got them, then why not? There are admittedly less actual wrecks in this volume and more abandoned and surrendering vehicles but that doesn't detract in anyway from the overall feel of the volume as there are a variety of different vehicles on show. Everything from fake training tanks fitted onto civilian car bodies to a large section on the surrender of Pz. Abt. 512s Jagdtigers. Even those of us who prefer the 'olive drab' side of life aren't forgotten with some great photos of a Sherman with wooden plank applique armour monitoring a surrender and a captured M3 halftrack with side mounts fitted to accommodate the Wurfrahmen 40 rockets. Now there is a conversion for the soon to be released Dragon and Trumpeter kits!

This new addition to the series maintains the high standards already set. Highly recommended.

Graeme Carruthers



POINTE DU HOC
PETER HOWARD
IAN ALLAN PUBLISHING
ISBN 0-7110-3095-2

This is the latest in Ian Allan's 'Secret Operations' series and covers the incredible assault by American Rangers on the German 155mm gun battery on Pointe du Hoc. The subject is covered in 96 pages with black and white and colour photos, maps and diagrams throughout. The photos are both contemporary and current, the latter covering equipment in the main with one or two of the site as it is now. What I particularly liked about the illustrations was that they are all of a good size – no postage stamp efforts here.

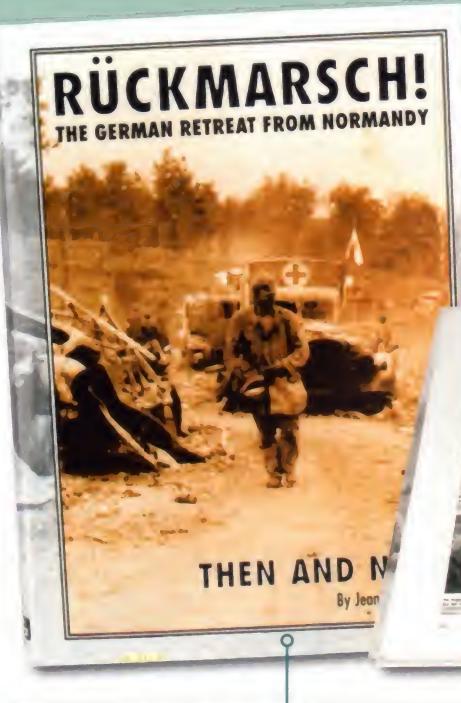
The book provides a graphic account of the background to the raid, the men involved and equipment used, the tactics adopted, how the raid evolved and the aftermath.

This is another fine volume in what is becoming a very good series indeed and is highly recommended. As an aside, I happened to visit Pointe du Hoc last summer with the Editor and some of our Scottish modelling colleagues. It was rather ironic that we were not allowed out to the observation bunker on the Point itself on 'Health and Safety' grounds – I wonder what the Rangers would have thought of that!

Available from www.ianallanpublishing.com

Paul Egerton





RÜCKMARSCH, THE GERMAN RETREAT FROM NORMANDY

JEAN PAUL PALLUD

ISBN: 1 870067 57 6

This is the latest book in the ever-expanding Then and Now range brought to you by the creators of the excellent After the Battle magazine. The format is the same as before, begin with a highly detailed history of the subject, dig out every photo of the subject you can find and retake as many of the photos as you can again from the same position as the original.

This volume deals with the German retreat through France, the Falaise Pocket, the crossing of the Seine and the journey to the Westwall. Considering that After the Battle has already produced a volume on Panzers in Normandy only very few photos have been duplicated in this book.

This is a high quality book and is worth every penny of its £40, every page is either full of text or full of photos, both wartime or contemporary. This book has a diorama or a model reference at every turn and it will be on and off your shelf constantly. This book will be vital addition to anyone's reference library.

I can't recommend this, or any of the Then and Now range highly enough. These books are a must for anyone interested in military history or modelling.

Available from www.aviationbookcentre.com

Graeme Carruthers

T55 SPECIAL AND RECOVERY VEHICLES IN DETAIL

FRANTISEK KORAN, FRANTISEK SYKORA, JAN MARTINEC, TOMAS BOUCHAL
WINGS AND WHEELS PUBLICATIONS (WWP)

ISBN 80-86416-59-3

This is No.16 in WWP's excellent Present Vehicle Line series. Over 160 pages are chock full of high quality colour photos with the modeller in mind. A range of T55 variants are covered from the expected engineer types to surprising examples from the Czech Railway Fire Brigade and Rescue Service in bright blue and red!

Vehicles covered are:-

MT55 Bridge Tank

T55C Training tank

BS55 Bulldozer

VT55 Recovery Tank

BT54 ARV

ZS55 Engineering Tank

JUTB55A Crane Tank

UOS155 Land Moving Tank

T55SPOT Prototype Fire Fighting Tank

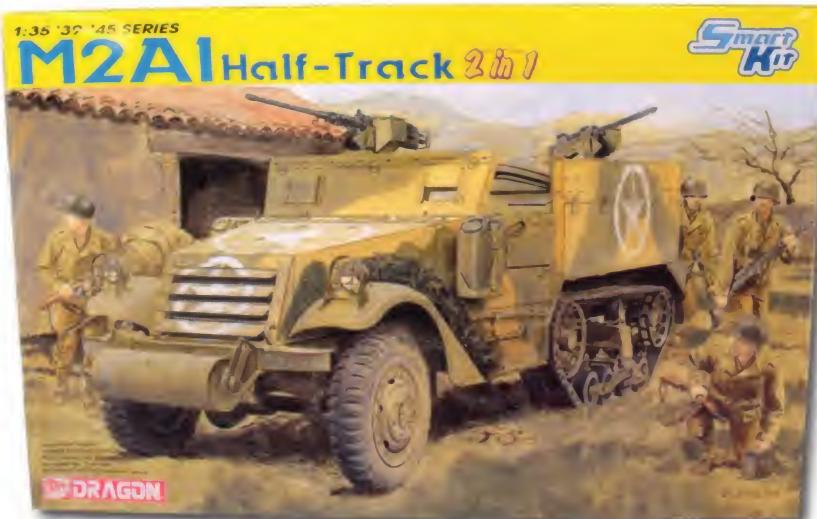
As we have come to expect, all external aspects of the vehicles are well covered, as are the crew spaces. However, the engine compartment is not featured but all is not lost as it is covered in Volume 7 on the T54/T55.

This is another outstanding volume from WWP and with plenty of T55 kits on the market ranging from the modestly priced Trumpeter offering to the high quality product from Tamiya, the scope for the adventurous modeller is very wide indeed. How about a bright yellow road vehicle recovery T55 - not AA livery but a private Road Assistance and Tow Away Service from Liberec in the Czech Republic?

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

Paul Egerton





IT'S A TRACK AND A HALF

We finally get one of Dragon's new US half tracks to look at, well was it worth the wait?

Ian McGonagle

How do Dragon do it? You can fill pages explaining how this kit compares with the Tamiya offerings of days gone by, how Dragon have managed to raise the bar for the modellers of the world, how Dragon manage to sympathetically mould the sprues so as to minimise the effect on the final build, you know, that sink mark you just can't get to and if you can there's hundreds of them.

The subject of Dragons attention is the M2A1 (M2) a soft skin that was as versatile to the allies as the 251 was to the Germans. Dragon has gone back to basics and as you study the subject and look at the contents of the box you can see the way ahead for the halftrack. While I touch on the box, it's worth saying the art and information are a plenty, even if you have been hiding in a cave in Afghanistan you will be in no doubt that Dragon want to shout about the quality of their kit's, all four sides give a clear message as to the extent and versatility of the contents and just to cap it off look underneath, a plethora of images showing detail.

On opening the box you are greeted by masses of clear bags holding the goods. It is now that you come face to face with the highly detailed parts. Within one of the bags is a sheet of card, on it there are three decal sheets, yes I said three, a clear sprue with the most detailed set of lenses, a length of nylon rope, a small length of chain, a

modest brass fret and the plastic components for the drive and idler wheels. When you get past the bagged sheet of card you reveal seven bags of sprues.

The kit follows the build of the 1975 Tamiya M3A2, but that's where the similarities finish, I did, to remind myself, get an M3A2 out of my collection and the time gap of 30 years shows. Tamiya's kit is bulky and gives a blocky impression, not so with the Dragon kit. It's detail screams from every item that combines to make an assembly, from the engine cooling fan to the tow-hitch at the rear. Specific items stand out for me, the drive train and road wheels with moulded bulged tyres, just add an inflation valve and you are away. The two piece tracks are highly detailed and show no signs of sag, just like the real thing. This section alone takes up the first seven stages but unlike some armoured kits, it looks a dream to put together with no flash or unsightly sink marks.

Moving onto the front and rear hulls, the front, comprising of the engine and driving compartment, continues the high attention to detail with nice rolled wheel arches sporting stowage attachment points. The panels are all detailed with operating mechanisms and catches. You will return to the forward assembly

throughout the build adding the relevant items for the choice of model, which ever you choose, I promise you that you will buy another kit to

build the other variant. The rear compartment holds the business end, sporting two 30 Cals and a 50 Cal, all good from the box. If you choose the M2, an absolute gem of a 360 degree machine gun ring is provided. As with the forward compartment, the rear is highly detailed both on the interior and exterior, it awaits only stowage and crew as required. The only slight disappointment is the moulding of mines in the racks; it would have been nice to have empty racks to add stowage as you wished. Dragon also provide 50 and 30 Cal tripods (folded) to mount on the outside, as with the machine guns, these look the part and when painted and weathered would look just as good as any resin parts.

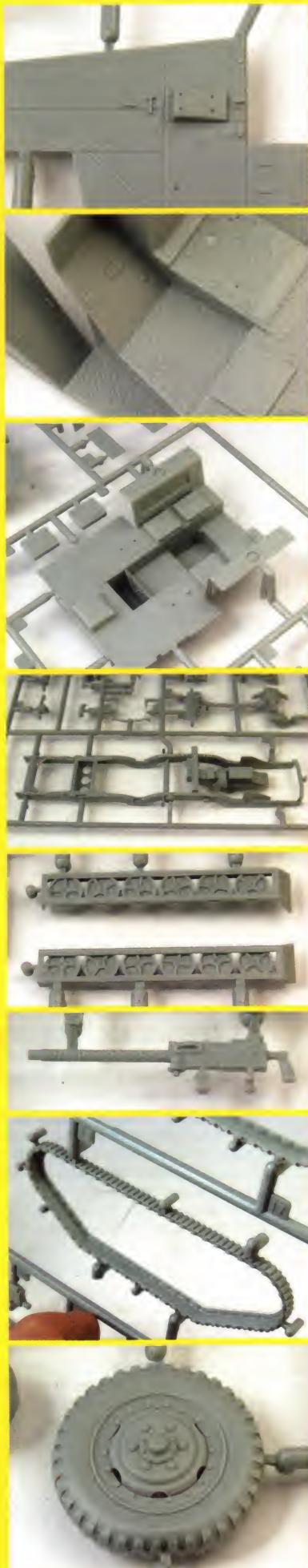
As the build closes you bring together the three main sub-assemblies and only then, I feel, you will truly appreciate the full quality of the kit.

Decals options are provided for five vehicles including vehicles serving in Tunisia, Italy and the Ardennes and with the inclusion of a winter washed and Mediterranean schemes makes for some varied and colourful half tracks.

The benefit of this kit for me is no real need for additional etched brass or resin, the purists may disagree but my models are not to be viewed by so called judges just shown to my fellow modellers.

The downsides to this kit is that there are no crew figures, the mines are moulded in the rack and provision for a few items of stowage would have been nice.

Hats off to Dragon and I look forward to the M16, M3, M21 etc in the future, please! ■





Letters

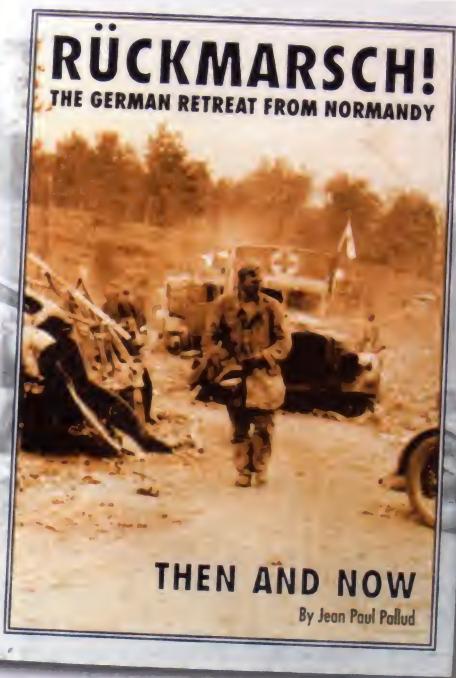
RECOMMENDED READING

RÜCKMARSCH, THE GERMAN RETREAT FROM NORMANDY

JEAN PAUL PALLUD • ISBN: 1 870067 57 6

Yes, I know Graeme Carruthers has just reviewed this very same book within our book review pages. But I am such a fan of this series I had to have a say myself and having visited much of Normandy last summer, I found this to be a compelling read and the research that has gone into tracking down the locations of the original photos and recreating them so exactly is a credit to the author.

Having used the Battle Of Bulge Then and Now book to help tour the Ardennes a few years ago I'm sure I will be doing the same before too long with this superb publication.



1:35 CONVERSION

I would firstly like to say that I am 18 and I love wargaming, proving that young people like it too. I would just like to say a huge congratulations to the people that work on this magazine and who contribute to its content. My dad recently bought me issue number 6 which I read intrepidly. Being a wargamer (fantasy and WW2 1:72) I normally buy models that are either good on the battlefield or a necessity to an army. This magazine has opened my eyes to a whole new world and has inspired me to 'big it up' and start modeling 1:35. It has also shown me that the model doesn't need to be good on the battlefield to still make a great modeling subject.

Keep up the good work and onwards to victory!

Marc 'Maxmillian' Harris

Ed says: It is great to know that the models in scales that didn't originally have much interest to you have started to inspire you, there are a lot of people that specialize in one area or scale and have no interest in any other topic. So much so we could feature a really good article on say painting or weathering, but because the model used isn't their chosen subject (i.e. Panther, Israeli etc) they won't even read it for the tips, which could help improve any vehicle regardless of colour, period or nationality. I am so glad you have been inspired to have a go at something different. Just remember your dad may not be so impressed if you start wargaming in 1:35 when you have to take over the entire house for your battleground!

BRASSED OFF

May I say what a pleasure it is to have Model Military as a part of my "modeling diet" I get so many useful tips and inspiration from the pages within. I must compliment Mr. Fraser Gray on his excellent 232 Six Rad feature. A splendid job on such a wonderful subject. I wish to support Mr. Gray assertion: "there seems to be an absurd arms race going on between the photoetch companies at the moment to produce ridiculously, complicated sets which offer very little practical help to the modeller, instead of producing useful items, such as the tiny miniature padlocks for the stowage boxes, where P.E parts excel. The absurdity of these complicated parts only prevent good kits from being built, painted and finished, which I feel is no good to anyone!" Fraser Gray really hits it on the head with that statement! Bravo sir! Well put indeed! I feel

that photoetch companies could really help modellers by issuing smaller less expensive sets. I would be more apt to use them. As it is now I simply will not pay 29.95 U.S. for a large photo etch set after spending 35.00 to 50.00 U.S. Dollars on the base kit. Then added to that if say the track needs replacing or some other major part then one could be well over 100.00 Dollars, U.S. In fact I find it more challenging to work with as much as you have been given "in the box".

Frank Blanton
Richmond, Virginia U.S.A.

BUDGET MESH

I have been an avid reader and model builder for too long according to my wife. just a tip for the builders who read this, my wife makes greeting cards and uses different materials, then one day I was in hobbycraft store and noticed a pack of metal

(brass) mesh in all sizes but best of all 1:35th size, they are packaged by a company called AMACO (keepsakes & cards) these are ideal for engine grilles and stowage baskets, the packages retail for about £4.99 for a pack of three. Please carry on publishing your fantastic mag and I wish you and all your readers a very happy New Year.

Kind regards
Lee Dowling

Ed says: Thanks for the tip Lee its always a good idea to keep an eye open for tools, products and materials that can prove ideal for our hobby and sometimes from the most unlikely of sources.

DIFFICULT CHOICE

having just read issue 10 and got to your letters page, I was sorry to see no one had written in. well here's a letter. the magazine is great-its just a shame I had to decide which publication to choose between (TMMI and your very fine selves)- my budget doesn't stretch that far. glad to say MMI is the winner. Here's to a long and fruitful relationship.

Dominic Rowe - London

GERMAN, YES PLEASE!

Over the past couple of issues I've noticed the amount of letters you receive repeating the same argument. Less German and more Allied! To many Germans. Blah! Blah! Blah! You know what I'm talking about. But why? Yes I know



WRITE TO:

MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
 Tel: 01525 222573 Fax: 01525 222574 Email: editor@modelmilitary.com
 The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

there seems to be much more in the way of German subjects than Allied subjects, I always notice in the variation whenever I walk into a model shop. To those who moan and groan, I say stop quarrelling and get modelling! Life's to short and the modelling cupboard to big to squabble. Yes I admit I have a soft spot for German armour more than Allied subjects, even though I'm a proud Welshman. The reason for this leniency and I'm sure many will agree with me, is that German armour was far more superior than the Allied armour, and there was so much variation amongst German Engineering. For instance Allied armour outnumbered German armour 6:1 at least! But the variation of tanks and armoured cars in the German arsenal as the war progressed, meant that of course there would be more to talk about and more modelling of German subjects than Allied. I could list many more German tanks than Allied tanks. Probably another reason for this difference in numbers is of course that the Allies continued to design tanks and armoured vehicles long after the war. The modelling range of Allied subjects runs from the Great war to present day. You must remember that German armour's main time line revolves around the 6 years of the second world war. As after the war Germany split in two and the two regions relied on either Allied and Russian Tanks. That's why there are more WW2 vehicle subjects, but much less modern and pre-war subjects with Germany. Museums are another factor. There are hundreds of Allied tanks like the Sherman in tank museums everywhere, but when it comes to German armour. If we were to take a handful of the most famous tanks. Only 2 Sturmtigers, 2 Elefants, 7 King tigers, And 1 Maus prototype still exist. This makes them much more visually interesting than Allied subjects, because they are so rare which makes them popular with modellers. Especially with "What if" dioramas. It is my appreciation for the remnants of German armour as a school boy which makes me choose a German tank before an Allied subject. Because lets face it, if you had to chose between a Tiger and a Sherman to ride into battle. I sure as hell would know which one I would choose. It is this reason combined with the rarity of these tanks that makes German armour legendary and the most popular modelling subjects.

Gareth Duffy (Ammanford)

Ed says: Thanks Gareth, your letter could certainly put cat amongst pigeons, or in this case the tiger amongst the Shermans!

I think you are right German armour seems to have an almost mythical status and are admired as celebrities in the modelling society of today. As we have said before we have an obligation to try and cater for everyone's tastes and interests, but as you have said life is too short and our stockpiles of unmade kits too large to spend all day debating this when we should just get on and build what we like. After all this hobby is personal and we shouldn't be dictated in what to build by others.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

RANDOM REFERENCE

This month I thought I would try something new with regards to the 'Just got to build it' picture. As I have been sorting through the hundreds of reference photos I have amassed over the years I figured it might be a good idea to share them by featuring selected images, which may prove useful as modelling reference. As the new title suggests these will be completely random, whether it be detail shots, weathering effects, wear and tear, battle damage, colours, or just about anything I hope will prove useful and informative.

I am constantly taking photos that I think may be of use at a later date on some future project, but for some reason I never seem to take a full set that that could be turned into a full and interesting article. This meant I had all these photos with no practical way of sharing them until now, so I hope over the coming issues I can include some of the many and varied topics I have photographed, which might just come in handy?

See you again on March 1st!

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

RANDOM REFERENCE!

'Just got to build it' becomes Random Reference and where better to start than the good old Sherman?

For the first random reference photo I have picked this image of the weld seam on the hull top of the M4 Sherman at the Coberton museum in North Devon. This shot clearly shows the seam is raised and is very smooth, for years until the most recent Shermans from Dragon and Tasca these have always been depicted as a recessed weld on all Sherman kits.

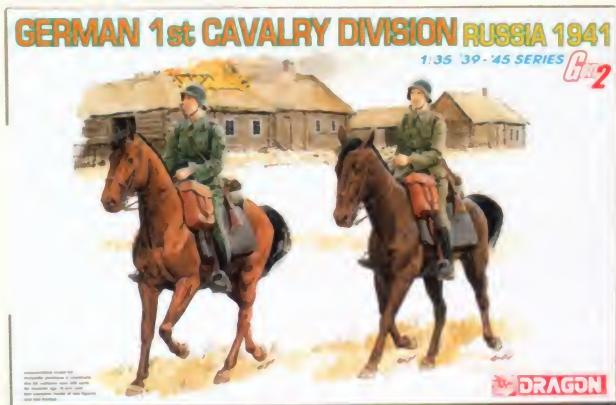
A good comparison would be to look at the Academy M4A3E8 preview on page 41, where the recessed weld seams are clearly visible in the photos of the hull top.





Figures

- A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



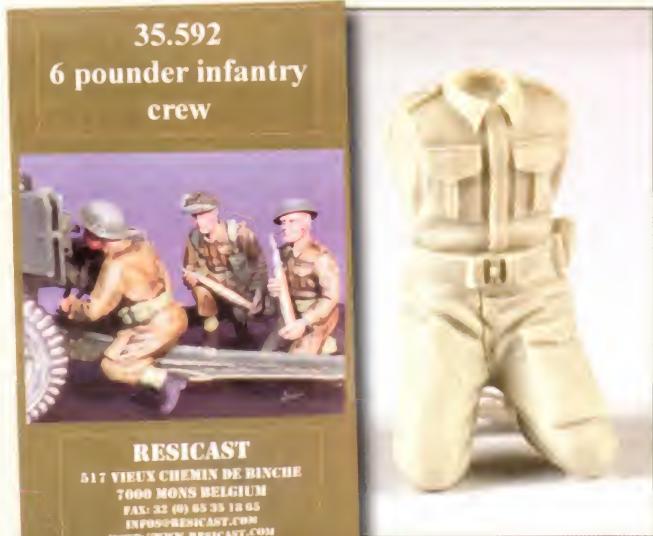
DRAGON
**1:35 GERMAN 1ST CAVALRY
DIVISION RUSSIA 1941**
ITEM NO.6216

I must admit at first glance when this set turned up at the office, it didn't really do much for me, but on opening the box I was absolutely amazed at the level of detail and thought Dragon have put into this set. Well, where to start? You get two beautifully animated horses and riders, one large and one small etched brass fret containing epaulettes, badges and belt buckles for the riders along with a full set of riding tack for the horses. Along with all these goodies we get all the usual extras we have come to expect from Dragon's superb Gen 2 sets. These include lots of spare webbing equipment, helmets, etc, but my favourite addition in this set has to be the bonus optional heads for the two horses.

All in all another great set from Dragon.

Available from all good model shops

10/10 - The Editor



RESICAST
1:35 6 POUNDER INFANTRY CREW
ITEM NO.35.592

Resicast has designed this set of gun crew figures to go with their recently released highly detailed and accurate 6 Pounder Anti-Tank Gun. Beautifully sculpted and flawlessly cast this set of three British figures will complement the 6pdr perfectly.

If you have already purchased the Resicast gun, this set will be absolutely perfect accompaniment for it, but if your money won't quite stretch to purchasing the Resicast gun as well, they will still be just as much at home on the old Tamiya or Italeri versions.

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk

10/10 - The Editor

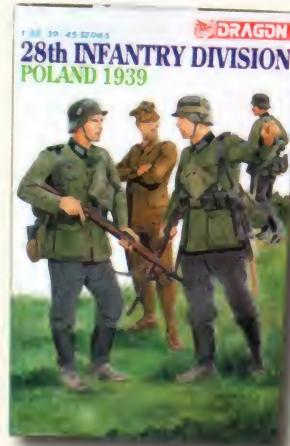


DRAGON STURMGESCHÜTZE CREW RELOADING (RUSSIA 1941) ITEM NO.6192

All though this set isn't a Gen 2 set they are still very good, detail is nice and crisp, and the poses are natural and mimic Ron Volstad's superb box art very closely. Three of the figures are wearing the standard assault gun uniforms, consisting of the reed green tunic and trousers, the fourth figure is wearing a jumper (pullover) instead of the tunic. This one I think will prove to be a very popular figure to accompany many a German vehicle.

Unlike the Gen 2 sets no brass or decals are included, but you do get 12 very nice injection plastic rounds of 7.5cm ammunition for both the early L/24 gun, and the later long barreled weapons. I'm sure this set will prove to be very popular and will help make a perfect little set piece vignette or diorama.

Available from all good model shops
8.5/10 - The Editor



DRAGON 1:35 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION POLAND 1939 ITEM No.6344

Although this new set isn't part of the Gen 2 range, they are still very good indeed. The set consists of three German infantry armed with Kar 98 rifles, and a rather stern looking captured Polish soldier. The standard of moulding throughout is very good, especially the body parts, the only area in which this set don't quite match the Gen 2 sets, are the heads and the weapons. One nice inclusion is a tiny two part etched brass set for the webbing straps that adorn one of the German infantryman's helmets.

Overall, another useful set for anyone needing some early war figures.
Available from all good model shops
8.5/10 - The Editor



MINIART 1:35 SOVIET OFFICERS AT FIELD BRIEFING ITEM NO.35027

MiniArt are definitely making a name for themselves for producing some imaginative figure sets, and this set of Soviet officers is no different. Supplied in the box are five figures, two of which are tank officers and two infantry officers, the fifth figure looks to be a crewman listening in on the briefings. All the figures are nicely detailed and offer a good variety of uniforms and are in realistic and natural poses.

This set will be the perfect compliment for MiniArt's excellent T70 light tank for example.

Available from www.hannants.co.uk
8/10 - The Editor





References - Airborne Artillery



KING OF THE HERD

Ralph Zwilling continues his informative articles on Modern US military equipment, this time we look at the 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment.

The live firing exercise "Bavarian Strike" of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team which took place in Grafenwöhr from 9 to 26 October 2006 was the first training of the recently re-activated 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (AFAR).

Just some months prior on 8 June 2006 the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment "Golden Lions" was re-designated at Warner Barracks Bamberg, Germany as 4th Battalion, 319th

Airborne Field Artillery Regiment "King of the Herd". The mission of the 4-319th AFAR, is to destroy, neutralize and suppress the enemy with accurate cannon fire. The battalion operates as a tactical unit and will be positioned for the most effective response to support manoeuvre units, commensurate with the terrain, combat mission and responsiveness to the higher headquarters. It's organized into a headquarters and headquarters battery (HHB), two firing batteries and a forward support company (FSC) attached from the 173rd

Brigade Support Battalion (BSB).

As the battalion was organized just some months ago, it still does not have all the equipment listed in the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) for an airborne field artillery battalion. For example up to now the 4-319th AFAR is still equipped with the old M939 series 5 ton trucks but not the new Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle (FMTV) trucks. The battalion received the first eight howitzers in September 2006. In the following months the battalion conducted leader's

training with the M119A2 but the howitzer sections did not begin training until October at the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC).

Each howitzer section is made up of two M1097 HMMWVs prime movers and a 105mm M119A2 Lightweight Howitzer to engage the enemy with indirect fire. The ammunition section re-supplies the four howitzer sections with ammunition and has a M1083A1 MTV truck, M1084A1 MTV truck and two M1095 MTV trailer



▲ This M1097 HMMWV Prime Mover towing a M119A2 Lightweight Howitzer was seen during a recent exercise in Germany. Note the cover on the windshield which should prevent reflection of the sun and the damaged right rear mirror.



▲ The M119A2 Lightweight Howitzer consists of the recoil mechanism, carriage, fire control instruments including M137A1 Panoramic Telescope, M187 telescope mount & quadrant, M186 direct fire mount and M90A2 direct fire telescope, breech mechanism assembly, cannon and cradle.

THE M119A2 105MM LIGHTWEIGHT HOWITZER

The M119A2 is a light weight air mobile, air dropable (by parachute) or towed howitzer with an average crew of seven soldiers. It provides direct and indirect fire support to highly mobile light infantry or airborne infantry units. It was originally designed, developed and produced by Royal Ordnance, Nottingham, England as the L118/L119 British Light Gun. In the L118 configuration, the weapon uses separate loading 105mm Abbot type ammunition.

The L118 served with distinction during the Falkland Islands conflict. The L119 is identical to the L118 except for the cannon tube which is reconfigured to fire all NATO standard 105mm semi-fixed ammunition. The U.S. Army, based largely on the success of the L118 during the Falkland Island campaign, purchased operational testing weapons to determine the feasibility of using this weapon in the U.S. Army's new Light Division concept. Key in the Army's evaluation was the ability to airlift an entire division artillery

within the severe light division air transport constraints. The M119A1 easily met this critical challenge. Once the operational questions were satisfactorily answered, the U.S. Army negotiated both a production contract and license agreement with Royal Ordnance in 1987. Deliveries to the U.S. Army commenced in December 1989 to the 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, California.

The M119A1 Lightweight Howitzer can be quickly moved and employed to provide maximum fire power with a minimum of



► The M119A2 is a lightweight air mobile, air dropable (by parachute) or towed howitzer with an average crew of seven soldiers. It provides direct and indirect fire support to highly mobile light Infantry or airborne infantry units. The 105mm rounds consist of the projectile, propellant, shell and the fuze.



combat loaded weight. It also provides a low silhouette and requires no recoil pit. It consists of the recoil mechanism, carriage, fire control instruments including M137A1 Panoramic Telescope, M187 telescope mount & quadrant, M186 direct fire mount and M90A2 direct fire telescope, breech mechanism assembly, cannon and cradle. The M119A1 Howitzer has an increased range of 14km with conventional rounds and 19.5km with Rocket Assisted Projectiles (RAP) providing greater lethality than the replaced M101/M102



References - Airborne Artillery



▲ For easier transport with the M109A2 Prime Mover, the M119A2 Lightweight Howitzer barrel can be turned forward. The howitzer is air transportable with its basic load of ammunition by the UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter and is dual lift capable with the CH-47D Chinook. The easiest method to transport the M119A1 howitzer and its M1097 prime mover into a drop zone (DZ) is the heavy drop out of cargo aircraft such as the C-130, C-141 and C-17.



▲ After the soldiers conducted indirect fire with their M119A2 Lightweight Howitzers on 25 October 2006 they had to clean carefully clean the gun barrel with cleaning rods. Note the MIA2 collimator scope in front of the howitzer and the measuring sticks in the rear.

► Howitzer. It has a maximum rate of fire of six rounds per minute for two minutes and a sustained rate of fire of three rounds per minute for thirty minutes. It can fire day and night in all types of environments. The 2,050.3kg howitzer can be emplaced by a crew of seven within three minutes, by a reduced crew in four minutes and can be displaced in three minutes. The Prime Mover is the heavy HMMWV variant M1097. The howitzer is air transportable with its basic load of ammunition by the UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter and

is dual lift capable with the CH-47D Chinook. The easiest method to transport the M119A1 howitzer and its M1097 prime mover into a drop zone (DZ) is the heavy drop out of cargo aircraft like the C-130 or the C-141. Therefore the howitzer and the prime mover will be secured on special dropping platforms to prevent damage through the impact. Additional LASIP improvements in Block II include a redesigned gearbox, removal of radioactive tritium from the fire control system, installation of a new buffer with improved

seals and no compensating tubes, simplified oil filling and monitoring hardware, addition of a roll bar to reduce damage during airdrop, and an improved rammer/extractor tool. Application of LASIP Block II to the M119A2 fleet was scheduled in FY2004. Howitzers with the Block II applied are designated as M119A2. Communication between the howitzer section and the fire direction centre is established through RT-1523E Advanced Lightweight SINCGARS System Improvement Program (ASIP) radios.

▼ 2nd Lieutenant Frye, HHC 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, and 2nd Lieutenant Benford, HHC 1st Battalion, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), observe incoming fire in Grafenwöhr, Germany, as part of the certification exercise held October 19-26. The goal of the week-long training exercise was to certify the forward observers and fire support officers throughout the Combat Team.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to thank LTC Daniels and Major Parsons (4-319th AFAR), Major Sternberg and SGT Aird (173rd ABCT Public Affairs Office), Mr. James W. Dirkse, Mr. Wolfgang Hertrich and of course all "Sky Soldiers" for their continuing outstanding support during several photo shoots without this report would not have been possible.



▲ This picture shows a M94 Muzzle Velocity System (MVS) mounted on top of the 105mm cannon. The MVS is a lightweight, state-of-the-art radar designed for employment with field artillery units. The MVS will enable artillery batteries to eliminate gross range bias errors, a large contributing factor to artillery inaccuracies. This system will measure all types of field artillery rounds, to include base-bleed and rocket assisted projectiles.



▲ Note the traversing and elevating handwheels below the sights of the M119A2.



▲ One the left side of the cradle assembly are the MI37A1 Panoramic Telescope, MI187 telescope mount & quadrant, MI186 direct fire mount and the M90A2 direct fire telescope.



References - Airborne Artillery



▲ The firing platform in detail. Note the two firing stays attached to the platform swivel.



▲ The recoil mechanism consists of the recuperator assembly, a nitrogen reservoir and two equilibrators on the sides of the gun barrel.



▲ The spade is mounted on the rear of the trail assembly. Note the handbrake and the tube clamp.



THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM PATCH
The shoulder patch worn by the men of the Brigade came into being with its activation in June 1963. The red bayonet signifies a strike force borne by a white wing denoting that the strike force can be flown by transport aircraft and dropped by parachute into any assigned objective. The tab reading "Airborne" above the shoulder patch indicates that the men are paratroopers and all equipment of the Brigades is air transportable. The patch's colors, red, white and blue are our country's national colors.

▼ The MIA2 Collimator, produced by Seiler Instruments, and illuminated with a battery pack is the primary aiming reference point for indirect laying operations.



Incoming



ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 JERSEY ROAD BARRIERS (LARGE)

ITEM NO. A110

More modern accessories from A/A. This time we have a set of the large pre-cast concrete barriers most often seen as lane dividers on our highways but in today's conflict zones, these are increasingly being used at road blocks, check points and as parking area markers for heavy armoured vehicles. Five pieces are supplied in each set along with a length of soft wire which is used to produce the re-bar lifting eyes. This is another of those really simple yet great items who's use will be limited only by the imagination.

Available from www.accurate-armour.com

9.5/10 - The Editor



ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 JERSEY ROAD BARRIERS (SMALL)

ITEM NO. A109

This eight piece resin set comes complete with soft wire for the re-bar lifting eyes as per the large set, again these will, I'm sure, prove to be a great addition for anyone interested in modern armour and who enjoys building dioramas. Casting is flawless and detail very good, including the cast concrete texture on all the exposed faces of these blocks.

Available from www.accurate-armour.com

9.5/10 - The Editor



UM

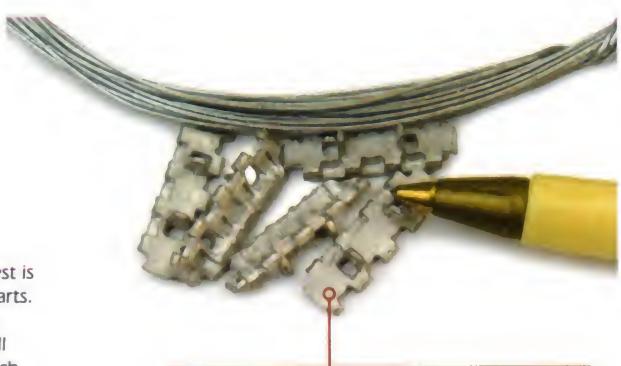
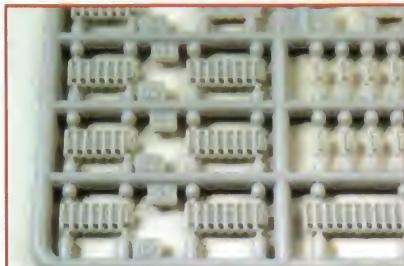
1:72 SDKFZ 138/1M BISON

ITEM NO. 346

UM Have produced a whole host of vehicles based on the PZKFW 38(T) of which the latest is the SDKFZ 138/1 Bison self propelled gun. This kit consists of 191 and 6 etched brass parts. I must say that I have been impressed by the standard of kits that UM are producing and this is no exception. The tracks, which are of the link and length variety, and are very well done and a nice touch is the inclusion of 10 rounds of ammunition. Again, the one hatch is moulded closed but the fighting compartment looks good when completed. The builder just needs to drill out the gun barrel. Two marking options are supplied One for LSSAH in Normandy and the other for the Ski Jager Division both in 1944. Highly recommended.

Available from all good model shops

8/10 - Jeff Adams



FRIULMODEL

1:48 PANTHER LATE TYPE TRACKS

ITEM NO. ATL-4801

These beautiful little white metal individual working tracks have been designed to replace the link and length injection plastic items in the Tamiya 1:48 Panther and Jagdpanther kits. As we have come to expect from Friulmodel the links are cleanly cast and are assembled using the supplied steel wire. These tracks will really offer a significant improvement over the kit tracks and if you follow our tech guide to working with these tracks back in issue 1, will be a breeze to assemble.

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor

Бронеавтомобіль BA-6M Armored Vehicle BA-6M



UM

Пластикова збірна модель
Plastic modelkit

68,5x29,5x33mm

Quantity of plastic details - 73

Quantity of gun elastic details - 12

No.362

1:72

UM

1:72 BA6M ARMOURED CAR

ITEM NO. 362

The BA6M is the latest in the series of Russian Armoured cars produced by UM. The kit consists of 80 parts and 12 rubber tyres, which again is impressive as the finished model is about 60mm long. The parts are crisply moulded and fairly flash free although some detail seems to be missing. If you look at the box art you will notice rivets around the doors and hatches but these are missing from the kit, which is a shame. Again as in a lot of their other kits, all the hatches are moulded closed but as UM do not provide any internal detail, this is not a problem. Strangely, although no marking options are depicted on the instruction sheet, a generic decal sheet is provided so you will need to consult your references! I have to say I did like this vehicle which does look like something out of a wacky races cartoon!! Recommended Available from all good model shops

8/10 - Jeff Adams



BARREL STORE

1:35 RARDEN CANNON

ITEM NO. BD35036

During my build of the Academy 155mm M12, I substituted the plastic barrel with Barrel Store's offering and this purchase opened my eyes to the full range. At the IPMS Nationals I came across the Warrior's Rarden 30mm Cannon barrel and I have to say I was impressed, no, very impressed. The barrel was in aluminium and shows no sign of blemishes and just to be flash the recoil assembly was in brass and it also has the most stunning muzzle. Some manufacturers have opted for the rolled flat etched brass but not Barrel Store - the muzzle is machined and looks the better for it with no seam to hide under the barrel. Well done Barrel Store.

Should you buy this barrel? Well yes, and if you only buy two extra items to update your Warrior, buy this first then decide if you should buy the Accurate Armour correction set or the Fruimodel white metal tracks.

Available from the www.armour-models.co.uk or www.mission-models.com

10/10 - Ian McGonagle



Friendship Models

New Releases



Legend Productions 1/35:

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Ebay Shop:

<http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Friendship-Models>

Visitors to premises by appointment only.



Incoming



VERLINDEN

1:48 TIGER I DROP IN ENGINE SET

ITEM NO. 2180

The Verlinden 1:48 Engine set has been available for quite some time now but this is the first opportunity for us to review it. The set has 22 very well cast parts with no air bubble present and there is also a length of copper wire included. The engine is cast as a top view and would look perfectly acceptable if the supplied engine bay door was left open. The detail on the engine is quite good as are the air cleaners and hose connectors.

The engine provided is a Maybach HL230 (P45) with two top mounted air cleaners. Here lies the problem as this engine was used mostly on the mid to Late Tiger 1s and not on the early version as provided by Tamiya. All is not lost however as the engine can be used on the AFV/Skybow Late Tiger 1 and fitting it would present no problems for all but the most inexperienced modeller. Overall quite a good update just incorrectly labeled on the box

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk
8/10 - Luke Pitt



ACCURATE ARMOUR

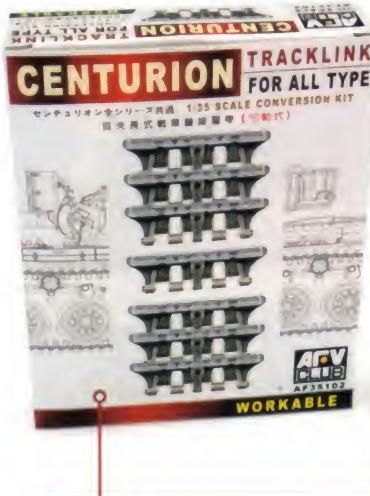
1:35 BASTION CAGE BARRIERS

ITEM NO. A111

These Hesco Bastions have become such a common sight nowadays we hardly notice them. Next time you are looking at photos of any NATO deployment in recent times you will see they are used everywhere!

I once had to scratch build a dozen of these for a diorama and remember what a pain it was and I just wish these had been available then. This set of six are beautifully cast and the detail is first class, even on a subject such as this Accurate Armour continue to put their best efforts into producing another top quality product of a subject that doesn't seem too interesting a first glance, but believe me the level of detail is no less than is put into own of their multi media kits. Available from www.accurate-armour.com

10/10 - The Editor



AFV CLUB

1:35 CENTURION WORKING TRACKS

ITEM NO. AP35102

These are individual injection plastic tracklinks designed as an upgrade to the rubber band type included in the AFV Club Centurion kit. These links have already been removed from the sprues at the factory and therefore, only need to be clipped together. Each link does suffer from a couple of ejector pin marks that will require careful removal before they can be assembled.

Available from all good model shops

9/10 - The Editor



TRUMPETER

1:72 US M113 ACAV

ITEM NO. 7237

One of the latest releases from Trumpeter is the M113A1 ACAV curiously described as an Armoured Car on the box! Armoured Cavalry Fighting Vehicle (ACAV) was the term used to describe M113s fitted with a cupola and gun shields fitted over the 50 cal and M60 machine guns and shields fitted over the main hatch. These were first used during the Vietnam war. The kit consists of 75 parts and a set of rubber band tracks. On first impressions, this kit is well detailed and includes a nice looking engine although the inspection panel is moulded closed, but most of the hatches can be depicted open apart from the door in the rear ramp. There is also a nice interior supplied. Now the bad news, the M60 Machine guns supplied are missing part of their barrels which gives them a snub nosed look. The guards which protect the antenna mounts on the upper deck are moulded on as a solid unit and will need to be removed and replaced and the applies to the tools moulded onto the upper deck. Also one CIP panel is supplied and you are told to fit it in Stage 11 although it is not shown in the painting and marking guide. The rubber band tracks are highly detailed and are very thin so they should easily be worked around the wheels. Only one marking option is described although there are more on the decal sheet the builder will have to consult his references for placement. This was a strange kit to review as I have no doubt that it could be built into a nice little kit with a bit of work but am confused with the markings and the inclusion of the CIP panel which came into use during the 1999 NATO operations in Kosovo!

Available from all good model shops

6/10 - Jeff Adams



SCALE
1:72
MODEL KIT NO.
72441

Sd.Kfz.261

German Radio Communication Vehicle



ICM

1:72 SDKFZ 261 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE

ITEM NO. 72441

Based on the same chassis as the SDKFZ 222 armoured car, the SDKFZ 261 was an unarmed communications vehicle characterised by the large frame antenna. This kit from ICM consists of 56 parts and 4 in etched brass.

Again as in the Krupp Protze, the parts are crisply moulded and well detailed. The etched parts make up the anti Grenade mesh and can be depicted open or closed although no internal detail is supplied. As before the wheel hubs are moulded separately.

As you would expect of a kit with so few parts, construction is simple and builds into a nice little vehicle. Two marking options are supplied, one unidentified vehicle finished in whitewash over panzer grey and the other from LSSAH in panzer grey. The decal sheet is a generic one for SDKFZ 222/223/260/261 so the Modeller has a few decals for the spares box. Recommended although some may find the price prohibitive for such a small vehicle.

Available from all good model shops

7/10 - Jeff Adams



FV-101 CVR (Tracked) Scorpion



ACE

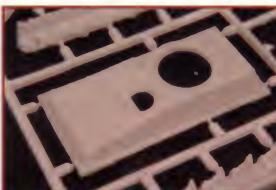
1:72 FV-101 CVR SCORPION

ITEM NO. 72417

Ace are well known for their kits of modern armour the latest of which is the grandly titled FV-101 CVR (Tracked), which we all know as the Scorpion Light Tank. Incidentally, the CVR stands for Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance. The kit itself consists of 109 plastic parts and 12 in etched brass. Which is an impressive number when you take into account the small size of the kit. The parts are crisply moulded and well detailed and you have the option to build an early or a late version so please consult your references. All of the hatches can be depicted open which is always nice to see. Ace have departed from supplying rubber band or link and length hard plastic and have supplied their tracks as etched brass parts; These are highly detailed but the builder will probably require a specialist bending tool as there are multiple folds required. That said, the brass seems easily worked but care will have to be taken when wrapping the tracks around the drive/idler wheels. There are four marking options supplied, 2 British, one in black and green camo and the other in Desert Storm sand, an overall olive drab Spanish Marine version and a New Zealand example finished in a US MERDC Scheme.

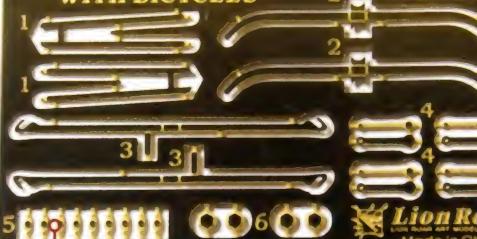
Distributed by Pocket Bond

8/10 - Jeff Adams



B GERMAN SOLDIERS WITH BICYCLES

LE35065



LION ROAR

1:35 BICYCLE ETCH SET

ITEM NO. 35240

If you haven't heard of Lion Roar then look at their web site www.lionroarmodel.cn, especially if you like German armour. The set I purchased at the IPMS Nationals was the update for the Tamiya Bicycles and I have to say I'm impressed.

This is not for the faint hearted, a lot of plastic has to be removed or discarded, wheel's, frame and chain to name a few, but the enclosed colour photograph's show you the potential of the set. Everything is provided even down to the plastic rods of differing diameter that you would normally have to get from your own stock.

The detail is very good on all of the parts and a particular highlight is how the chain drive is made up, a two part sandwich gives depth and definition to this item. Lion Roar also supplies rank patches and belt buckles for the German soldiers, a further 'extra' enclosed as standard by the Shanghai Company but not by other well-known companies.

This is a very good and inexpensive set that will prove to be an excellent mini project in itself, even if, as I am going to do, build it then fit it on the back of a tank, it alone will attract attention.

Available from www.armour-models.com

8.5/10 - Ian McGonagle

Next Issue

On sale March 1st 2007

He's a Mard man

Sam Dwyer continues his one man quest to build all of Dragon's latest releases, this time it's the Marder II



Double Trouble

Glenn Bowen has fun with two of Tamiya's ancient SU-85's, one built out of the box while the other gets a makeover.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



KT in the sunshine

Keith Goldsworthy reviews the Austin K2 ambulance in 1:48 from Accurate Armour

...and much more!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE No.11 MARCH 2007,
PUBLISHED February 1st 2007

Editor: John 'Spud' Murphy
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Printed by:
Symbian Print Intelligence, Hertfordshire, UK

Distributed by:
Odyssey Publisher Services Ltd
No.7 St Andrews Way
Devons Road
Bromley by Bow
London E3 3PA
Tel: 0870 240 2058
Fax: 0870 240 2059
Email: ops@odyssey-pub.co.uk

Model Military International is published on the first Thursday of each month by:
ADH Publishing
Doolittle Mill
Doolittle Lane
Totternhoe
Bedfordshire
LU6 1QX UK
www.modelmilitary.com
Tel: +44 (0)1525 222573
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Subscription rates are:
1 year (12 issues): £36 UK
£47 Europe
£55 Worldwide (Airmail)
£44 Worldwide (Surface)

USA Subscriptions Agent:
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Binders: £8.95 (UK),
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The Last Post...

ORANGINAL COLOURS?

As a follow up to my comments regarding British World War II fire extinguishers in last months Last Post, Bill Brignal felt the urge to put pen to paper on this matter.



Following Spud's feature in MMI Issue 1, I painted the fire extinguishers orange on my Dragon Firefly Vc. I thought Spud must know what he was doing and, anyway, I fancied a bit of colour contrast. But wait, when MMI Issue 10 drops through the letterbox and I read that Spud was on the receiving end of a finger-wagging lecture at Scale Model World from "A Bridge Too Far"- man about the foolishness of carrying orange fire extinguishers on the outside of AFVs, and I started wondering. Then I remembered that back in the summer my wife, bless her little cotton socks, took me off to Normandy for my birthday and didn't complain once as we spent four days doing the beaches and battlefields. I had a vague recollection of seeing orange fire extinguishers so I trawled through the million and half digital photographs I took on that historic trip and there, in all its glory, was this Centaur IV, sitting on a plinth at Pegasus Bridge. And guess what? It has orange fire extinguishers. Now I know it's not a Firefly but it is of the same era so I had a little smile on my face and Spud's credibility has rose several notches.

Then I remembered that many years ago I worked with a 7th Armoured Division veteran of Normandy and beyond...so I asked him the question. His reply was quite unequivocal "I can assure you that everything located on the outside of armoured vehicles was coloured as the camouflage of the vehicle".

So there you go, two sources with different results.

Bill Brignal ■

MISSION MODELS
PRECISION GLUE TIPS

CAUTION: TIPS ARE EXTREMELY SHARP

www.missionmodels.com

Mission Models Precision Applicators

I received a set of these Mission Models Precision Applicators a little while ago, and as usual tend to have a look at these new products and think, well I have managed so far without that particular gadget. Up until now I had been quiet happy squirting a blob of cyano onto a scrap piece of plastic card and use a cocktail stick apply it!

It was while I was trying to attach some tiny parts to my almost complete Tamiya 1:48 Pershing that I started to get frustrated with my tried and tested method, so I decided to give one of these precision applicators a go. The cap fitted snugly over the end of the cyano bottle nozzle, and after a gently squeeze the tiniest amount of glue appeared at the end of the stainless steel tube making for a precise application every time, with the bonus of not wasting the glue I didn't end up using, which had been squeezed out onto the plastic card using my old method.

I must admit it's another of those products I don't know how I managed without!

Available from www.missionmodels.com and www.accurate-armour.com



StuG.III Ausf.G EARLY PRODUCTION

Smart Kit

Engineered for modeling enjoyment
Plastic parts with enhanced detail
Unprecedented value
Ready for instant assembly!



DRAGON

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StuG.III Early Production fighting compartment authentically reproduced • StuG III Early Production MG gun shield • Cannon can be elevated up or down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-directional slide-molded superstructure w/bolt detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide-molded engine deck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nuts on frontal armor are done at different angles • Roof armor w/accurate weld seam • Screw heads are accurately reproduced 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio set and seats are included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper hull w/easy assembly • Multi-piece upper hull for maximum detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commander's hatch w/interior details - can be assembled open or closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenders made from slide-molds w/o both upper and lower surface details • Driver pattern is accurately portrayed 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun w/full breech assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun breech and recoil guard are fully reproduced • Recoil and recuperator cylinders are truly represented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun sight and hand wheels are included • Complete gun mount is represented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering brake inspection hatch can be modeled open or close 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatches can be assembled open/closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver vision port w/clear plastic part • One-piece driver vision port armor w/no details 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide-molded muzzle brake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-piece barrel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide-molded mantlet w/realistic weld seams and internal surface detail • Chamfer in lower part of mantlet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide-molded gun sleeve w/screw details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fender details made from photo-etched parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air deflector truly represented • Photo-etched mesh is included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide-molded torsion bars are included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idler wheels w/photo-etched parts • Detailed track tension adjuster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40cm magic tracks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antenna base w/correct shape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide-molded periscopic gun sight is made from clear parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commander's cupola periscopes made from clear parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly designed Notek light 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhaust pipes w/hollow ends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final drive housing covers are separate parts for maximum detail • Accurate sprocket wheels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide-molded hydraulic shock absorber in extreme detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack is reproduced w/multiple parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool box w/padlock produced by slide-molds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cable heads are slide-molded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal tow cable 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road wheels w/accurate details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed suspension swing arms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand new OVM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartograf decals offer different markings 			